

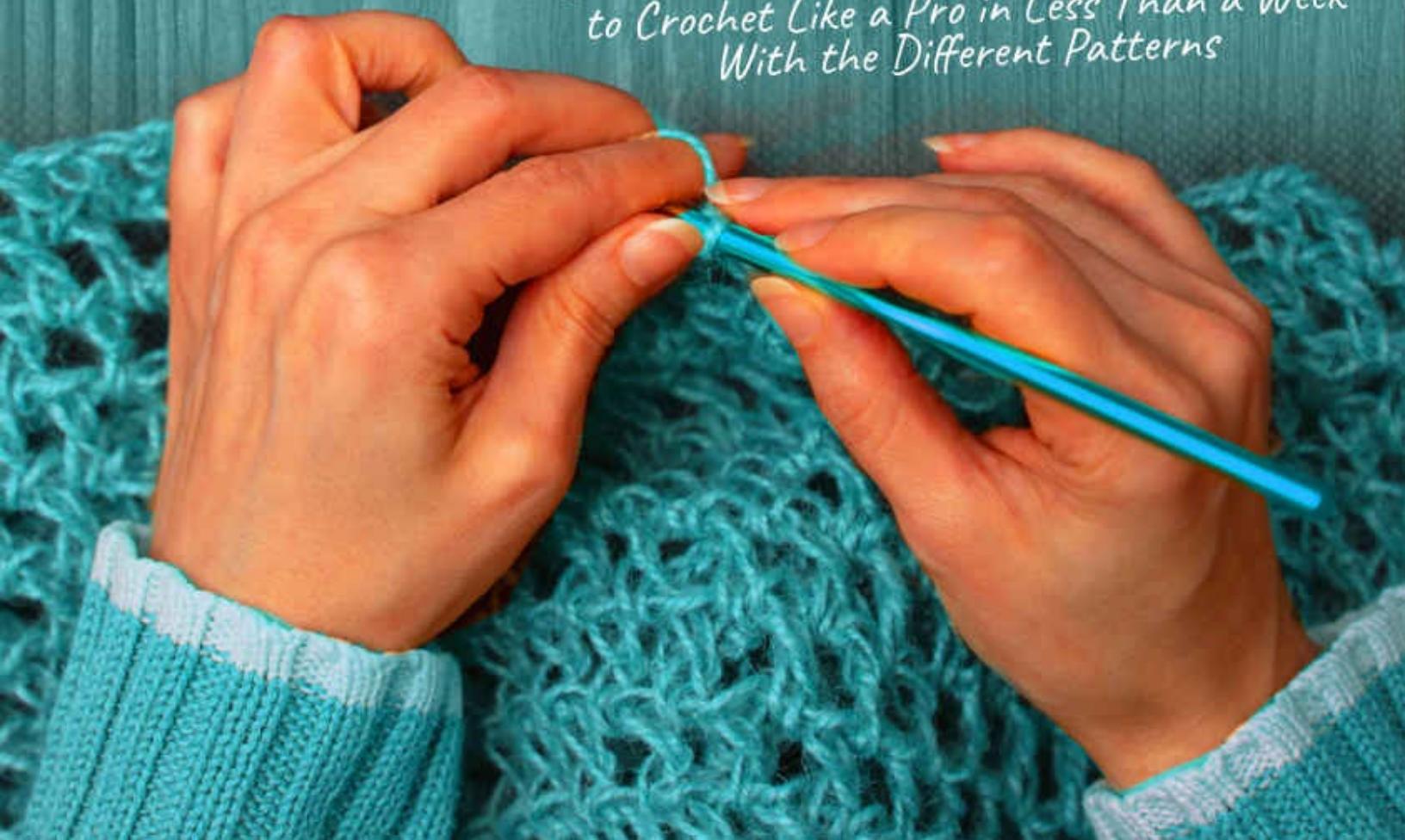


Polly Wilson

Crochet

FOR BEGINNERS

The Complete and Ultimate Step-by-Step
Illustrated Guide for Beginners to Learn How
to Crochet Like a Pro in Less Than a Week
With the Different Patterns



CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS

**THE COMPLETE AND ULTIMATE STEP-BY-STEP
ILLUSTRATED GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS TO LEARN
HOW TO CROCHET LIKE A PRO IN LESS THAN A
WEEK WITH THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS**

WRITTEN BY:

POLLY WILSON

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Introduction

If you are looking forward to learning Crocheting, then this is the best book for you. We will introduce you to the tools for crochet, the yarns, the hook, and the types of crochets. You will be able to learn how to hold the hook and the yarn and then proceed to the techniques and stitches. In the end, you can come up with successful projects that will motivate you even further into trying some amazing patterns.

Crocheting is a subject that attracts the attention of many people. It offers the simplest way with which people can express their creativity. As a result, when you go online, you will definitely get plenty of books on crocheting. I would like to thank you again for choosing this one! We gave it all our efforts to ensure it is full of as much useful information as possible. Have some fun and enjoy it!

Learning how to crochet provides the most amazing experience. Rather than just spending your time on phones or other electronics, you can spend it on coming up with something more useful. Crocheting will offer you the best way with which you express your creativity. You will have wide options for color choices and designs, and the way you will use them will express your ideas and thoughts.

Crochet is probably one of the cheapest and easiest hobbies. It is obvious that the very basic tools for crocheting include yarn and hook, but you also need to know that there are more other tools that will make everything easier. In order to get started, you need to prepare the following tools:

The most important item you must have is the yarn. Crochet is a yarn craft; therefore, it is obligatory; it is what you will use for creating the fabric of your first project. Generally, there are so many yarn choices in the market,

and it may be easy for you to get carried away. Yarns are categorized according to their fibers (natural fibers and synthetic fibers or a blend of both), colors, textures, weights, eco-friendliness, etc. You should not be overwhelmed by these categories. For a beginner, it is advised that you avoid expensive yarns. Inexpensive yarns should be your friend. You should also avoid slippery yarns as well as anything with texture. As a beginner, textured yarns will make the job tough because it will be difficult for you to see your stitches, which may be frustrating. It is therefore recommended that you use smooth acrylic yarn that has a medium weight. As a beginner, when buying yarn, be sure to choose a yarn with the number 4 symbol on its wrapper. Wool is also another fiber option that best fits beginners. However, the only disadvantage of wool is that it is more expensive when compared with acrylic. Cotton is the best natural fiber option. I prefer that you choose cotton because with it you are able to see your stitches.

Often most people confuse between knitting and crocheting. The difference between these two is that with knitting, you will use two pointed needles, while in crocheting; you will only use a curved hook. When you go to the market, you will probably meet many types of hooks, including handcrafted hooks, aluminum hooks, plastic hooks, bamboo hooks, ergonomic hooks, etc. Choosing a crochet hook can be a very difficult task, especially when learning how to crochet.

This is because there are different crochet hook types and sizes. All that matters is that you get to find the set that best fits you. However, you have to try different crochet hooks to determine the one that best works for you. This is the main reason as to why, as a beginner, you should have a set of them. Most sets especially set meant to be used by newbie crocheters, come with a range of different sizes for guiding them through some of the most basic patterns. These hooks will range from small-sized hooks to large-sized hooks

and will work differently with different weights of yarns. The size of your crochet hook will determine your gauge.

There is a complete beginner's set that I prefer you give to start with then proceed to experiment with different types. With time as you will get to crochet, you will get to know your best crochet hook you feel comfortable working with. Therefore, as you start, experiment with different hooks. Furthermore, when buying a hook for a particular yarn, it is good you make sure the size of the hook matches the size suggested on the yarn label. It is recommended that as a beginner; you need to have a chart guiding you on how to pair hook different sizes and different yarn weights for your project.

CHAPTER 1:

Crochet: From Its Origins to the Present Day

We do not know many facts regarding the early origins of crochet because the ancient textiles that survived are very few. Some claim that originally, women used fingers to create loops and chains.

Only later did they begin to use a tool very similar to the current hook, which was initially made of wood, bone, or bamboo and then in ivory and amber.

The oldest find, considered a precursor of crochet, comes from Jutland. It is a woolen cap that dates to about 3100 years ago. However, primitive textile samples were found in every corner of the globe—Far East, Asia, North and South America, and Europe.

Some scholars believe that Tambour's work was at the origin of modern crochet. This technique was used in China. It required the use of a fine hook to weave threads through a netted background.

This technique arrived in France around 1720.

An American scholar, Mary Thomas, believes that crochet work originally comes from the Arabian Peninsula. From here, it spread eastward, in Tibet, and to the west, in Spain and then, thanks to merchants and sailors, even in other parts of the world.

The most delicate crochet form originated in Italy in the 16th century and was used by the sisters for making ornaments and vestments. It was considered a

typical occupation within the monasteries where sisters created precious lace using very thin yarns. The linen for the altars was fitted with crocheted borders not only for decorative purposes but also to make it more durable. Very soon, it spread to Spain and Ireland, which were very Catholic countries.

Only in the 19th century did crochet begin to be appreciated in the bourgeoisie and the noble. The laces were used to adorn the linen of the house and underwear. Lace, finished with precious scallops full of picots and various decorations, had a huge development, especially among the ladies of the bourgeoisie, and they adorned their precious clothes with collars, gaskets, and tippets.

The crochet, which until then was not considered a genre, developed to mimic the difficult points of Venetian lace. The work was faster than needle and bobbin lace, and tools were simpler and easier to find.

Perhaps its popularity took off from a lady of French origin, Eleonore Rego de la Branchiomere, who settled in Ireland, where she remained impressed by the delicacy of the work of the nuns in a convent in Dublin. She not only perfected their skills but spoke of the art of crochet in her magazine “The Needle.” She also published eleven books in which contained conversion tables from needle lace and bobbin lace to crochet.

She is commonly credited with the invention of the Irish Lace. When times were hard, women had to find ways of supporting their families. This was particularly true during and after the great potato famine of the 1840s when crochet became the sole economic support. Another factor that contributed to the spread of crochet was the creation of a kind of domestic industry born in Clones to help the poorest families, thanks to Cassandra Hand, the wife of a local parish priest. The Clones Lace, still widely known, is a variant of Venetian lace. The Venetian lace, although very beautiful, required

considerable time and Irish women found that by using the crochet hook, they could achieve the same effect in less time. These women reproduced elements linked to their environment: shamrocks, fern, brambles, wild roses, daisies, or star-shaped figures.

When Queen Victoria promoted the crochet lace in an exhibition of Arts in London, fashion took off. Soon, demand became so high that professional sellers took the place of charities, and the activity of lace turned from survival activities into an industry. The patterns of crocheted lace began to be written and distributed. Irish girls traveled to other parts of the world to teach crocheted lace.

From the Irish Lace came the Orvieto lace, which, over the years, has acquired a peculiarity and original identity. In 1907, the Ars Wattana, a “patronage for young workers,” was born. It sought to carry out the activity of production and packaging of lace and frill with special ornamental details for the Duomo of Orvieto, aimed at strengthening and developing local crafts.

The popularity of crochet reached its peak between 1910 and 1920, with the fashion of the Edwardian era. Its models were more complex stitches and the prevalence of white yarn. They began to be printed in series of books with crochet patterns that took the place of honor in the decoration and creation of clothes and household items.

In 1930, fashion acquired simpler features. Art Deco was the trend of the moment, and crochet was used primarily for garments of children and infants, christening gowns, gloves, and blankets. During the Second World War, yarn was rationed, and since crocheting wastes more yarn than knitting, crochet seemed to be doomed.

Even though crochet was all the rage in Europe, it had not really gained much popularity in America. Most women who crocheted were immigrants who loved the availability of ready-made threads and other materials.

After the turn of the century, America finally accepted crochet, and it became part of the many skills taught to young girls. It was considered a leisure activity since it did not produce a functional or marketable good. It was pretty much reserved for the middle and upper classes.

In the 60s, crochet came back strongly in vogue after a long hibernation, using the vivid colors of granny squares.

Crochet's popularity continued to grow until the 70s, with ponchos being the must-have accessories.

In the 80s, crochet began to fall out of favor. The economy was growing, and more women were working, thus having less time for crafts. Plus, crochet work was no longer affordable.

Crochet and knitting lost their importance even in the school curriculum—nobody taught it anymore, and the new generation had no time to learn. This time, it seemed that crochet was really facing extinction.

Fortunately, since the middle of the 90s, crochet has experienced a new period of interest. It can be seen today as a hobby, but for those who have awareness, they consider it an art form.

CHAPTER 2:

Types of Crochet

Amigurumi Crochet



This is the most popular form of crochet, and its country of origin is Japan. Amigurumi refers to the art of creating small, stuffed toys or objects from crocheted yarn. Ami means to crochet or even to knit, whereas Nuigurumi refers to stuffed dolls. Whenever you see a doll or toy made of yarn, it is most likely Amigurumi. Many popular culture items have been used to make Amigurumi, such as Hello Kitty, Mario Brothers, Pokémon, and Winnie the Pooh.

Children's toys are among items made using Amigurumi crochet:

Aran Crochet



This type of crochet is usually cabled or ribbed. It has its roots in Celtic culture and features interlocking cables. It is often the choice of crochet used for making bigger items such as scarves, sweaters, and beanies. If you see the word “Aran” in your patterns, be careful because Aran is also used to describe the weight of yarn.

Items made using Aran crochet:

- Blankets
- Jackets
- Coats
- Scarves
- Throws

Bavarian Crochet



This Bavarian type of crochet is a vintage crochet stitch, and it is traditionally used in rounds. The resulting piece is often a thick fabric that procures for smooth and blended color changes compared to sharp color changes such as the ones commonly seen in a granny square. With Bavarian crochet, you will work in two parts. The first part is the base of clusters, whereas the second part is followed by a row of shells.

Items made using Bavarian crochet:

- Blankets
- Shawls
- Tabletop covers

Bosnian Crochet



This type of crochet has a knit-like fabric and is quite dense in nature. It is crocheted using a slip stitch and crocheted in different parts from the row before. Bosnian crochet also uses a different type of hook, conveniently called Bosnian crochet hook, which you can buy, but using regular hooks can work just as well. This type of crochet is called Shepherd's knitting since it also looks like knitted fabrics.

Items made using Bosnian crochet:

- Scarves
- Beanies
- Socks
- Hand gloves

Bullion Crochet



This crochet is a specialized stitch and is achieved using a combination of multiple yarn wraps on a long crochet hook. The result is a distinctive roll stitch that appears quite unique too.

Items made using Bullion crochet:

- Stiff items such as placemats
- Motifs for decoration

Broomstick Crochet

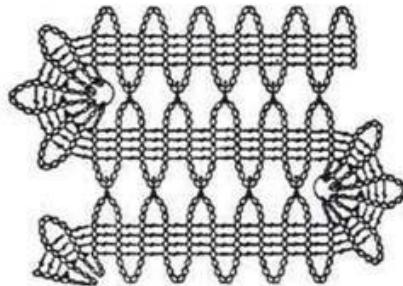
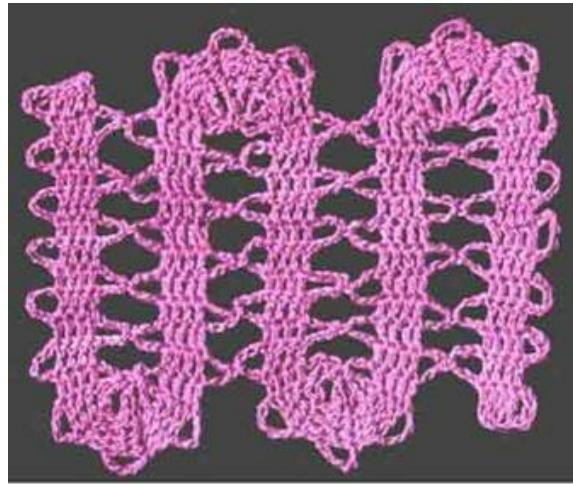


Also known as jiffy lace, Broomstick crochet is a type of vintage crochet stitch, which is made with a traditional crochet hook. The resulting stitches are formed around a long and wide object such as a Broomstick handle, which is how it gets its name. Modern people who crochet use larger crochet hooks or even thick dowels when doing Broomstick crochet.

Items made using Broomstick crochet:

- Delicate shawls
- Throw blankets for decoration

Bruges Crochet



Ribbons of crochet can be created using Bruges crochet. These ribbons are then crocheted together, and the results show an intricate lace pattern. This is also the most common type of crochet used in home decor items.

Items made using Bruges crochet:

- Intricate shawls
- Embellishments for clothing
- Tablemats

Clothesline Crochet



In this crochet style, traditional crochet stitches are done over a clothesline or thick rope or even thick twine to make baskets and circular mats to hold their shape.

Items made using Clothesline crochet:

- Baskets
- Mats
- Structural wall hangings

Clones Lace Crochet



This type of crochet is associated with Irish lace crochet. It was created to be an alternative to the Irish lace crochet because it's easier and quicker to make than the Irish needlepoint lace. The Clone knot used for this type of crocheting requires a unique crochet skillset.

Items made using Clones lace crochet:

- Open weave scarves
- Delicate dresses and tops

Cro-hook Crochet

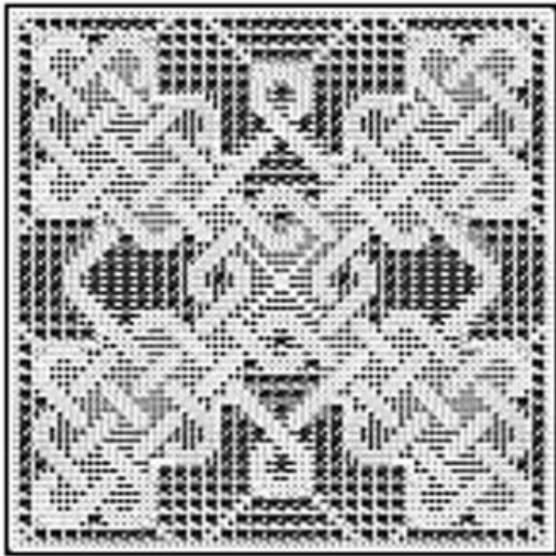


This uniquely named crochet is created using a double-ended hook to create double-sided crochet. This enables you to make stitches on or off at either end of the crochet piece, which does not have a wrong or right side to work on. Because of its nature, this type of crochet is called the Cro-hook or the Cro-knit.

Items made using Clones lace crochet:

- Washcloths
- Scarves
- Baby blankets

Filet Crochet



This style is created using chain rows and double crochet stitches. What you get is a grid-like pattern wherein the squares are either filled or not filled, and the negative space is usually there to create images with the pieces.

Items made using Filet crochet:

- Baby blankets
- Jackets and kimonos
- Handbags
- Cushions

Finger Crochet



This type of crochet is called such because it does not require hooks. It is like Finger knitting. It's basically hand fabric that you can use to weave crochet stitches.

Items made using Finger crochet:

- Simple string bags
- Basic scarves

Freeform Crochet

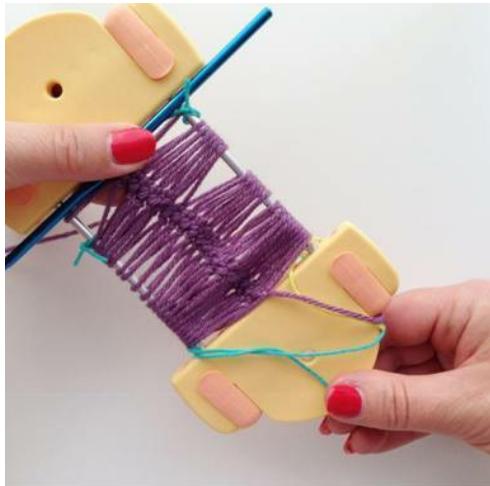


This type of crochet is called Freeform because there is no pattern or plan to follow. It is entirely up to the person crocheting to create something. It is very artistic and organic, making an excellent option for beginners.

Items made using Freeform crochet:

- One-off clothing items
- Art pieces

Hairpin Crochet



In earlier times, this technique used actual Hairpins, which is how it got its name. The resulting piece is unique and beautiful.

Items made using Hairpin crochet:

- Delicate scarves
- Shawls
- Wraps

Micro Crochet



Micro crocheting is a very delicate crocheting process and is great for those who are patient and like dainty and small things.

Item made using Micro crochet:

- Tiny things for dollhouses
- Embellishments
- Talisman

Overlay Crochet



This technique is also quite unique where a base of crochet stitches is made, and then other stitches are added to the top to create a raised pattern.

Items made using Overlay crochet:

- Potholders
- Wall hangings
- Handbags

Pineapple Crochet



The Pineapple crochet is considered more of a general stitch and shape rather than a technique. You can use this crochet to create scarves, doilies, and certain types of clothing.

Items made using Pineapple crochet:

- Dresses
- Tops
- Shawls
- Wraps

Stained Glass Crochet

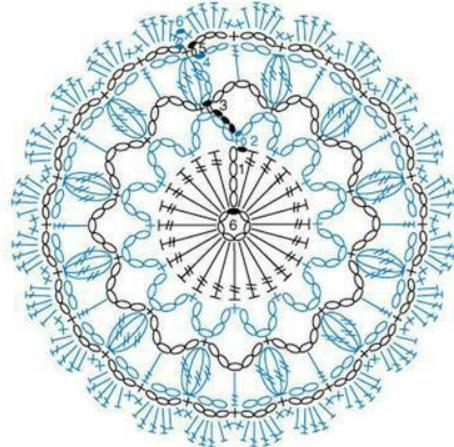


The Stained glass crochet could be mistaken for the overlay crochet. However, it is different because the top part is normally made using only black yarn to accentuate the colors and create the Stained glass effect. What you get is a very striking crochet pattern.

Items made using Stained glass crochet:

- Thick, sturdy items
- Winter scarves
- Handbags

Symbol Crochet



It is also known as the “chart” crochet and is another one of those crochet skills crucial to learning because you can make any projects from any crochet books in any language and create them all by looking at a chart.

Items made using Symbol crochet:

- Complicated patterns that are difficult to explain in words
- Intricate designs
- Motifs
- Foreign language patterns

Tapestry Crochet



It is also known as “intarsia” crochet. If you want to do colorwork, using Tapestry crochet enables you to create intricate patterns with a variety of colored yarn.

Items made using Tapestry crochet:

- Color workpieces
- Imagery based designs

Tunisian Crochet



This type of crochet is done on a long hook that has a stopper at the end.

Items made using tapestry crochet:

- Knit-look items
- Blankets
- Scarves

CHAPTER 3:

Crochet Language

Understanding Patterns

One of the biggest problems many people have when starting to learn how to crochet is the patterns; to a complete beginner, these walls of abbreviated text will not mean the slightest thing and can quickly lead to frustration.

One of the most common problems is getting what part of the world the particular pattern was written in. This is a significant problem, especially between the USA and the UK, because both countries have their own abbreviations and phrases for crochet terminology. Although the difference between the two is slight, it can make or break your projects.

It is vital that you determine what countries terminology your pattern is using. This information can be found in the pattern description on single patterns or website and can be found in the front of crochet books. The following chart shows the basic full US crochet terms used within this guide, as well as the differences between US and UK terminology. Later, we will teach you how to read abbreviations and patterns:

US Terminology	UK Terminology
Single Crochet	Double Crochet
Double Crochet	Treble Crochet
Half Double Crochet	Half Treble Crochet

Reading a Crochet Pattern

Sample Pattern

“Row 1: sl st into the 4th ch from the hook, ch 4, skip 3 ch and sl st into the 4th repeat to end of the row, ch 4 and turn.*ch 4, skip 3 ch and sl st into the 4th* repeat to end of the row, ch 4 and turn.”

Looking at the above sentence altogether, you are probably scratching your head thinking what on earth that chunk of writing is, but no fear! It can easily be broken down into smaller bits.

Let’s take a look at the first part of this sentence:

1. “Row 1: sl st into the 4th ch from the hook,”

We know from the conversion charts that sl st is an abbreviation of slip stitch; we also know that ch means chain. Altogether this sentence read:

“Row 1: Put stitch into the 4th chain from the hook”

Writing out patterns without the shortened text can help you grasp the basics of crochet. Take each part of the pattern you are looking at and write it out on a piece of paper. Change all of the abbreviations for their full terms and you can easily decipher any pattern

Let’s take a look at the second part of that sentence:

2. “ch 4, skip 3 ch and sl st into the 4th repeat to end of the row,”

Once again, take out the abbreviations, and the sentence read as follows:

“Chain 4, skip 3 chains and add stitch into the 4th, repeat to the end of the row”

Doesn’t that look simpler to understand?

Putting everything we know together the entire sentence should read:

“Row 1: Add stitch into the 4th chain from the hook, chain 4, skip 3 chains and put a stitch into the 4th. Repeat to the end of the row, chain 4 and turn your work, chain 4. Skip 3 chains and slip stitch into the 4th. Repeat to the end of the row, chain 4 and turn your work.”

It can be a pain to translate every pattern you work with into sentences, but it is worth it in the long run. Not only does translating make the pattern you are working with easier to understand, but it also teaches you the abbreviations for the most common crochet terms subconsciously. The more you practice this technique, the less you will need to translate your patterns.

Tips and Tricks of Reading Patterns

This is designed to give you a few little things to look out for when you read through a crochet pattern. For beginners, small markings within the text have their own meaning which may not be explained in the pattern description.

What Does Finish Off Mean?

At the end of a pattern or section, it may ask you to finish off. This simply means that the pattern wants you to cut the yarn and knot it so your work does not unravel. To knot your yarn, simply cut the yarn that is connected to the ball, leaving 4–6 inches. Now with the loop you still have on your crochet hook, pull it through that loop; this creates a slip knot that will tighten once you pull on the tail of yarn you have left. At this point, you are free to sew the ends using a tapestry needle.

Crochet Abbreviations

To read crochet patterns, you will have to memorize a lot of abbreviations or have detailed glossaries at hand. This is not a problem. On the web, you can find many in different languages. The best suggestion at this point is to stick to simple patterns. If you cannot understand the abbreviations, it is very likely that you did not master crocheting enough to create that project. It is a good idea to create your own glossary, too, with the abbreviations you want and use most, including those that your brain does not want to memorize.

- **SC**—Single crochet
- **DC**—Double crochet
- **TR**—Treble crochet
- **YO**—Yarn over
- **CL**—Cluster
- **WS** and **RS** tell you whether you should be working on the “wrong” side of the “right side.”
- **CH**—Chainlink

This is all basic. Most patterns have glossaries included, which show you what all the abbreviations mean, so do not be worried about them.

Crochet Terminology

- **Acrylic**—Synthetic yarn
- **Back Loops**—The loops on the top of your crocheting work are the front loops. The ones behind these are the back loops.
- **Back Loops Only**—This means focusing only on the back loops.
- **Back Loop Single Crochet**—A variation of the single crochet stitch which focuses only on the back loops.
- **Coned Yarn**—Yarn that has been wound onto a cone-shaped holder.
- **Color Flashing**—This is an effect that can happen when using variegated yarn. It's when an unintentional pattern occurs i.e. zig zags.
- **Double Crochet**—This stitch is taller than a single crochet stitch and it's formed by the “Yarn Over” technique.
- **Floats**—This describes the unused strands of yarn that are carried across the back of the project.
- **Freeform Crochet**—This allows the crocheter to explore the craft in unique and unexpected ways.
- **Frog**—“To frog” = to rip out stitches. “Frogging” = adding functional or decorative pieces, such as buttons.
- **Granny Square**—This is a crocheted motif that is made from a ring of chain stitches that is built outwards.
- **Half Double Crochet**—These are half a double crochet stitch.
- **Inelastic**—This is a yarn that is slow to recover its shape (or doesn't at all) once it has been stretched.
- **Kitchen Cotton**—This is a yarn that is useful for making projects for kitchen use; potholders, dishcloths, placemats, etc.
- **Loops**—Loops are an integral part of crocheting and are created using the hook.
- **Pjoning**—This is using the slip stitch to create beautiful fabrics.

- **Place Maker**—Make a mark on your work (preferably one that can easily be removed) to help you locate a spot later.
- **Plarn**—“Plastic Yarn”—often plastic bags that have been cut up and repurposed into yarn.
- **Protein Fiber**—A fiber made from protein.
- **Scrapghan**—An afghan created from yarn scraps.
- **Shell Stitch**—Works multiple stitches into one single stitch.
- **Single Crochet**—A basic crochet stitch.
- **Slipstitch**—A loose stitch joining layers of fabric that isn’t visible externally.
- **Tapestry Needle**—A hand sewing needle that’s useful for adding embroidery.
- **Turning Chain**—A group of stitches that facilitates the transition between the rows of crochet stitches.
- **Treble Crochet**—A taller stitch than the double crochet.
- **Variegated Yarn**—Yarn that has variety throughout.
- **Work Even**—Continuing in the same stitch pattern, without increasing or decreasing.
- **Worsted Weight Yarn**—A medium-weight yarn.
- **Yarn Cake**—A method for winding yarn.
- **Yarn Over**—This is a stitch that involves wrapping the yarn from back to front before engaging the hook in the stitch

CHAPTER 4:

Crochet Supplies: What You Need to Get Started?

Here are the basic materials for starting up a crochet project:

- Yarn
- Crochet hook
- Scissors
- Darning needle
- Tape measure
- Hook organizer
- Stitch markers
- Row counter
- Stitch patterns
- Crochet material organizer

The materials help in one way or another in making crochet. However, for beginners, we can use the basic ones.

Yarn



Yarn is a thread used in sewing or knitting any form of material. This is the backbone of crochet. It is the only material that comes out of the final product as it carries everything from designing to the conclusion. For beginners, it is advised to use a medium-weight yarn as it is easy to crawl it with the hooks.

There are different types of yarns according to your preference, and it is better to understand them before buying them. The common material is polyester and wool. There is also nylon, acrylic, rayon, and viscose, which can be the best choice according to your preference.

Here are the types of yarns:

- Natural fibers
- Synthetic fibers
- Eco-friendly fibers

Natural Fibers

These are yarns made from natural materials.

- **Cotton:** This is a material harvested from cotton plants a process is used to preserve them to last longer.

- **Silk:** This is a form of material made from the larvae of silkworms and is mostly incorporated with other fibers to create a neat and long-lasting yarn.
- **Cashmere:** Just from its name, you can see it is drawn from a cashmere goat and is known for being soft and warm at the same time.
- **Linen:** This is harvested from a flax plant and is commonly used for light garments.
- **Wool:** is so common in clothes and yarn, and it is a perfect material for heavy yarns.

Synthetic Fibers

As stated above, this is the commonly preferred material for yarn and is among the selling materials in the world. This includes nylon, polyester, acrylic, rayon, and viscose.

Eco-Friendly Fibers

- **Organic Cotton:** This is cotton made from cotton plants and is not treated with chemicals.
- **Bamboo:** Bamboo has always been used to make products for different uses and its silk is harvested as it makes a perfect yarn because of its strength.

Those are just a sample of the commonly used yarns, which are formed from different fibers for different types of crochets according to users' needs.

Hooks



These are primarily the needles used to hook up and do stitching on yarn to form crochet. The hook drives the yarn on each one in a back-and-forth manner to form beautiful designs. Sometimes, it is used concurrently with needles when a misstep is made on crochet.

Hooks come in different sizes; it is better to choose a perfect one depending on the yarns' sizes and design. It is advisable to always consider all this before starting up, for some hooks may not perfectly fit your desired project.

Scissors



This is a tool commonly used in homesteads for homemade clothes or trimming oversized curtains and towels. It is also known for being used by tailors for cutting their materials and other trimmings of textile. Scissors are also paramount on crochet.

Just like the hooks, there are different types of scissors, with different functions useful for crochet. The basic one is the general craft scissors, which can be found locally and easily. It is okay to use this kind on different fibers because it does not leave sharp edges, and it cuts in a zig zag manner just like the pinking shears. Here, the type of scissors does matter when the crochet is in the completion stage, as it helps cut it into nice pieces without tearing the yarns, threads, or fabrics.

When buying them online, make sure you check their specifications, as certain types of scissors might not be suitable for your project. The recommended scissors are standard, snips, embroidery scissors, and lastly the dressmaker. Embroidery scissors could be perfect for this case because it helps cut the exact yarn being used without tampering with the rest of the project.

Darning Needle



As the name suggests, it is a form of a needle with a bigger hole than the normal needle where the yarn passes through. The sharp end is a little blunt compared to a sewing needle and helps in making a perfect end on crochet. The darning needle is used to fix the end of each crochet so that it can be steady when in use. This is similar to sewing where you tie a knot at the end of the material, but for crochet, the darning needle is used to make the knot which will keep the whole crochet intact and in perfect shape.

There is no big problem when choosing a darning needle if it will fit the crochet project. The one with a larger hole can accommodate every kind of yarn, and there should not be any problem whatsoever.

Stitch Markers



These are clips used to mark areas of interest in crochet. There are different designs of crochets. When you have a slightly complex craft, it is always advisable to have a stitch marker. For beginners, it is always complicated to make crochets with corners or even rounded by following the pattern. This means the stitch markers are perfect for making areas where it forms patterns unless one is a professional.

Stitch makers have crafted clips that help indicate or put marks on a design to help a beginner or a craftsman to have a perfect and uniformed crotchet.

Any size and type of stitch markers can be used on any piece and type of yarn, as it does not favor the material. The maker can be found in local stores and most people prefer them depending on the sizes of their hands, or how perfectly they can hold them.

Tape Measure



Some of you could be wondering why almost everything that is used by tailors is being used to craft crochet, and the answer is yes, it needs to be totally perfect. Tailors are always seen with tape measures and to make crochet, you should get one too, especially for a beginner. The tape measure is simply for measuring and making the right adjustments when following a designed pattern.

This is a necessary tool when there is clipping using stitch markers, as it will help to create uniform patterns with minimal or no blundering.

However, for crochet flowers, this might not be necessary as they are very simple and can be modified easily, but it is advisable for big projects, especially to avoid disappointments at the end of it with different and unorganized sizes.

Tape measures also come in different sizes and types and other specifications, depending on the country you are located in. For a clear understanding, make sure you get a tape measure that supports your form of measurements. For instance, America's measurement is different from Russia's and the United Kingdom's. To make perfect measurements, beware of the readings as some may be misleading or have different dimensions depending on their form of

calculation.

Row Counters



Row counters are invaluable when you start to crochet. They will help you keep your place when you are working on a project, and they genuinely help you stay on the right track, so you don't get lost between the rows. Essentially, row counters are little chains that you loop onto your crochet hook, and they have little numbers on them that you can move to track your row progress while working. After every row, you move up to the next number in the chain, so you don't lose your progress.

Hook Organizer



After making the first and second patterns, you get to know the stitch patterns and designs that can work for you as you continue to be creative and innovative. The hook organizer resembles a car toolbox, and is always referred to as “do it yourself” and can work on your car anytime, anywhere. For the crochet, this is almost similar as it carries your essential materials for the work.

After finishing the work, the hook organizer helps keep all the materials used as it has pocket-like spaces for placing hooks, tape measures, darning needles, yarn, and other combinations of crochet tools. One can make any design that can hold the materials with ease and keep them in order. Instead of buying a toolbox for such materials, make one to place crochet projects in, and you will be shocked at how you continue to perfect your craft.

CHAPTER 5:

How to Crochet

Learning the Basics

Wherever you look, whoever you ask about starting your crochet career, the answer will be the same—the very base of your crochet is the chain, and almost every crochet pattern begins with a chain. If working in rounds or working granny squares, you need to make five chains in a row and join them so that you create a circle. All subsequent squares will be worked in that circle to start shaping your crochet. How do you create a chain? First, you must form a slip knot. In most crochet projects, the first step is making the slip knot. Again, when it comes to slip knots, there are many ways to create them. We will examine one of the easiest ways. First, twist a loose loop of yarn onto the hook. Hold the tail of the yarn between your thumb and index finger. Use the rest of your fingers to control the yarn that keeps unwinding from the ball. Draw the yarn into the loop with your crochet hook. Tighten the loose slip knot that is now on your hook. Remember not to tighten it too much. Make sure your crochet hook can move easily in the loop. Now, start the chain to make progress.

You have your slip knot with a hook, now wrap the yarn over the loop and pull it through to make a new loop. You have made your first chain stitch. In order to make more chain stitches, make another loop and draw the yarn through. You can repeat this as much is needed for your project.

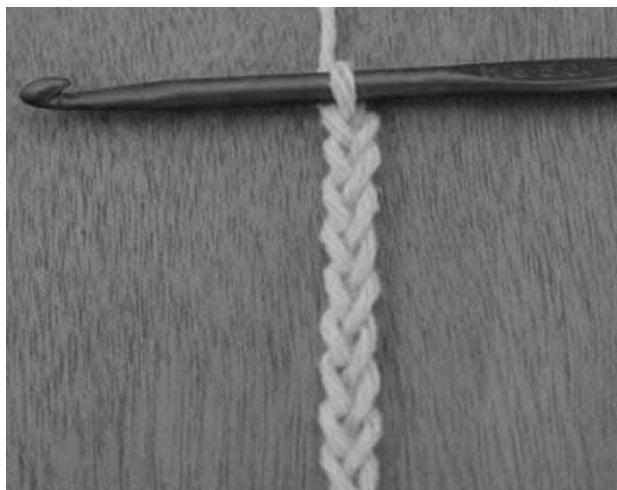
When you have five chains, you can join them to form a circle. As we said before, all the stitches will be worked in that circle. Once the chain is done,

you need to join the circle. This is done by putting the crochet hook through the first stitch, the wool around the hook, and pulling it through.

This leaves you ready to start with the first row.



There is no point in changing colors at this stage. You are doing your first chain, your first circle. It's better to try more difficult experimentations with color later. But if you really want to change colors, you must cut the wool and pull it through the final loop so that it is tightly fastened. However, by following the guide step by step with the stitches, you'll need to keep the wool attached, so you will not be able to change colors.



Now you learned the basics—holding your crochet hook and making a chain and a circle of working with. You can increase the number of chains as much as you want to make a larger circle if you want to or need to. When working on a flat item, opposed to one that is worked in rounds, you will need to work across instead of into a circle, thus building your crochet work. How to make a sweater? Merely continue by adding rows, keeping the sides as straight as

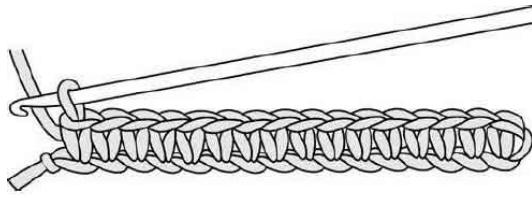
possible until shaping is required.

Basic Crochet Stitches for Beginners

Having learned how to make a chain, now it's important to understand that the chain is not used only as casting on, but it is also used to create shapes or the corners for granny squares. By the end of this guide, you will have learned how to use chains for those purposes. Now we will take a deep look into the ways to create different stitches and the most common stitches in crochet, giving you the ability to work from patterns.

Single Crochet

The single crochet is the most found stitch and the easiest to make. Easy and fast, it is good for creating shaped items like jackets or skirts. It is also good for decorating finished work as it creates a tight and dense fabric. You can use this stitch alone repeatedly or together with other stitches. It is the most fundamental of all stitches.



Final result

How to Do It?

- **Step one.** First, prepare a series of chains, and then insert your hook on the SECOND chain facing you and your yarn.
- **Step two.** Wrap the yarn towards you with your hook hand. Remember to wrap it from back to front (wrap the yarn from the back to the front —this is called “yarn over” or YO). At this point, pull the hook. If all has been done properly, you are supposed to have two loops to work with.
- **Step three.** Pass the yarn through the two loops. You've completed your first single crochet. Repeat the operation until you finish all the

chains. To continue, put your hook onto the next chain stitch and repeat all the operations from step two to complete the second stitch and so on.

We were talking about chain circles before. We can practice the single crochet stitch with the circle. Place the crochet hook into the circle. Put the wool over the hook. Place the wool around and pull it through the two loops on your hook (we went through this before) to form a single crochet stitch. Carry on repeating the same process until you have worked for all the circles.

When you get to the other side of the circle, join the circle up by placing the hook through the first single crochet you made. Wrap the wool over the hook, and pull through both stitches on the hook. To tie off, cut off the wool and then pull it through the loop on your hook. This time, pull tight to fasten.

Double Crochet

Double crochet is the second basic stitch you need to learn. It is one of the most useful, if not the ultimate useful stitch in crocheting. Once you have mastered it, you can put it to use in creating sweaters, shawls, Afghans, home and celebrations décor, and lots of other projects.

We start with our already worked circle.

Insert your hook into the desired stitch. Yarn over your hook (YA) and rotate the hook towards you. With the wrapped yarn, pull the hook through the stitch. At this point, you should have two (2) loops on the hook. YA again and draw the hook with the wrapped yarn into both loops on your hook.

You have now created one (1) double crochet (U.K. style). If all is OK, there should be one (1) unstitched loop on the hook. Repeat.

Double crochet is explained in different ways by different experts from different countries. More than often, there are differences even between experts from the same country. It is such a basic stitch that it cannot have a single description of how to make it. It is always better to hear different

opinions to understand properly.

For example, double stitches can be explained as below from a USA expert:

“Start a new chain and join it, so you are ready to try a new stitch. The double is a stitch that is a little larger than single crochet. Place the hook into a circle and wind wool around the hook for the commencement of the next stitch. Repeat the stitch outlined in bold above until you have a complete circle, then join off the circle as before.”

Two ways to explain the same thing—the fun is to find what matches you.

Treble Crochet

Continuing our journey through the main stitches, it is time to learn the treble crochet. Treble crochet is another key basic stitch you are likely to need for several projects. Trebles can either stand-alone or, like all other basic stitches, can be fused with others to make pleasing stitch patterns. Trebles are versatile and can be used in every way imaginable. They also work in numerous configurations, such as triangles, circles, squares, rows, and many other shapes. You can use them in almost any thread or yarn, which means you can try practically any material. No need to say that new material must experiment at a later stage of your learning experience.

You can begin your crocheting from a starting chain. Alternatively, there are many ways you can get started. We will consider the start of our work from a chain for now.

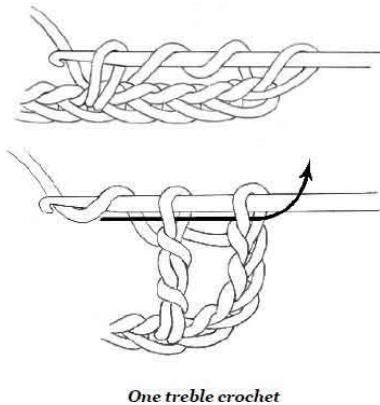
Instructions

Your chain should be 3 more chains than the number of triple stitches the pattern needs.

Skip the first 4 chains—they are turning chains. Your hook is already through the single loop you have in your chain. YA twice. Insert the hook from the front to the back of the work into the center of the fifth chain (having skipped

four, remember?). YO through the chain. You should have four loops on your hook now (see image below).

YO and draw it through the two loops currently on the hook (3 loops still on the hook). YO and draw it through two loops on hook (2 loops remaining on hook). Yarn over, draw yarn through the remaining loops on the hook, and you've completed one triple crochet (see image below).

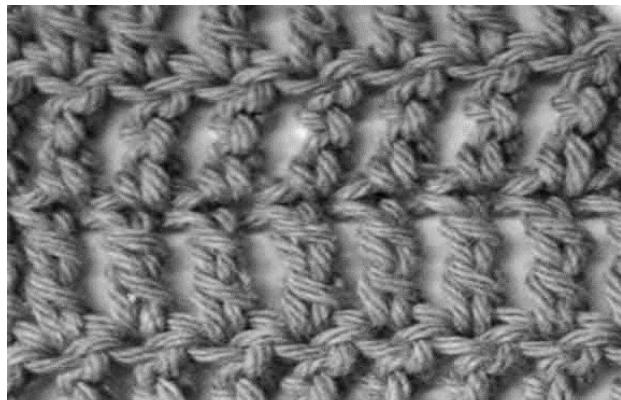


One treble crochet

YO twice, insert the hook into the middle of the next stitch, YO, and draw it through the stitch (YO, draw through loops on hook) 3 times. Repeat until you get to the end of the chain. Now you are ready to begin the second row.

To begin, you must turn in your work. Start by chaining four (turning chain). Skip the first treble (we talked about it in the beginning). YO twice. On the next triple crochet, insert the hook from the front to the back under the top 2 loops and repeat 3 times. Your first triple crochet now done. Repeat this step in each treble until you reach the end.

The image below shows what your work should look like when you are working on a flat item rather than a rounded one.



Treble crochet

Using Different Stitches to Their Best Advantages

The best way to get accustomed to the different stitches you have learned is to make a sampler. You can begin with a chain of whatever length you like. The most common and more typical are chains of 25 links for a small sample, but it is totally up to you.

Create a chain and then work one row of double crochet stitches. Turn the workaround and work another row of double crochet stitch, then trebles for two rows. Follow this with working into every third hole and creating three trebles into one hole before working on the next third hole to make your next group of trebles. Trebles are very suitable for grouping work. You can try different block groupings.

Do two rows for all the designs you decide to experiment with. This provides you with a clearer image of what you can produce using that stitch. You can always refer to your sampler when you are making something if you need to verify how you achieved something. Most experts create samplers in multi-colored wool so they can clearly see the stitches. It takes a little longer, but it's worth the time.



Typical sampler

Decreasing and Increasing

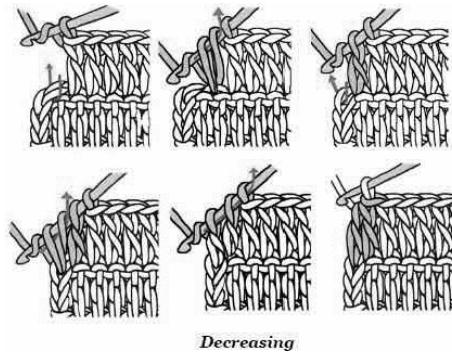
When you make the garment, you will need to decrease and increase to make the shape of the pieces that form the garment. As usual in crochet, what you must do is much easier than you might imagine.

To increase crochet, just increase the stitches in the same hole, which makes the current row have more stitches than the last.

Decreasing is done by working as shown in the diagram below. The image is better than the description. However, it is worth it to spend some time describing how to decrease.

To decrease in crochet, you start the pattern normally but omit the last part of the stitch, leaving the worked loops on your hook. You then work the next stitch as usual, with the last stitch's loop still on your hook. In the end, you pull your hook through all the loops to combine them together.

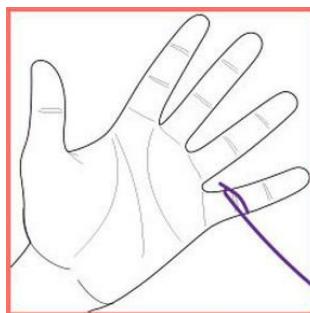
Although you might consider the above as very complex, it isn't. Like most of the other stitches, it is easier to do it than to explain how to do it.



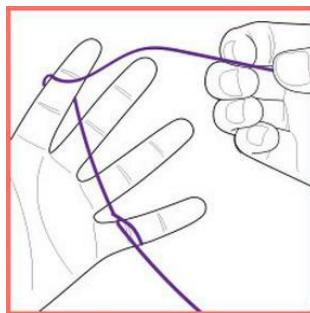
Crochet for Right Handed People

How to Hold the Yarn?

One of the first skills you must learn is how to hold your yarn properly. This comes before learning to secure the yarn on the crochet hook. Holding the yarn may differ depending on whether you are a right-hander or left-hander. If you are a right-hander, your left hand will be your yarn hand, and your right hand will be the one that holds the crochet hook.

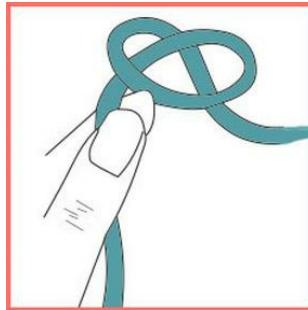


To begin, use your left hand and bring the yarn between your little finger and ring finger and wrap it just once, making a loop around the bottom little finger.

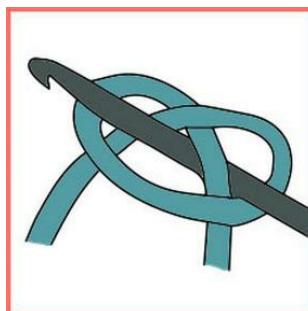


Next, move the yarn across diagonally on the inside of your hand. Then, make another loop on your ring finger by bringing it to the top of the index finger and looping it to the inside of the finger.

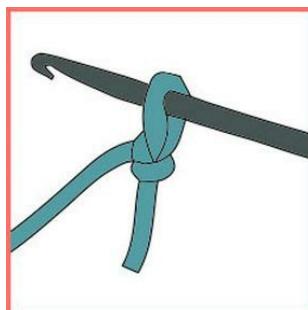
Next, create a slip knot. A slip knot is used to keep the yarn in place. This will give you greater control while stitching.



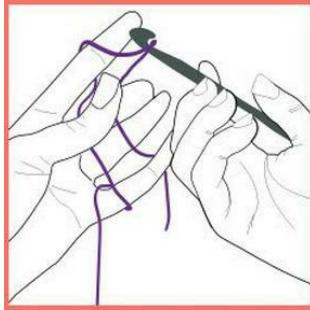
Firstly, lay your yarn down flat on the table. Take about six inches from the end of the yarn and create a loop that looks like a pretzel.



Next, hold the loop with your left hand and then move your crochet hook through the center of it, as seen in the image.



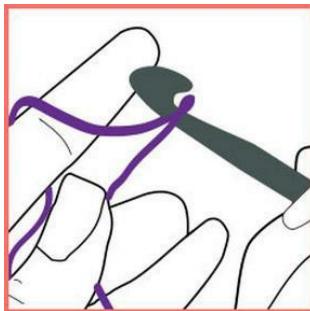
Next, tighten the loop around the hook by gently pulling both ends of the yarn. Allow a little allowance. Here, your slip knot should easily slide up and down the shaft of your hook, but it should be firm enough not to come off over the end.



Using your middle finger and thumb to keep the yarn in place, clasp the yarn with your fingers and hold the crochet hook in your other hand. Holding your hook and yarn in this manner provides plenty of room for you to maneuver, and it also helps you control the yarn's tension by either lowering or raising your index finger.

Yarn Over

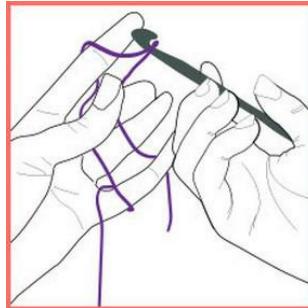
(Yo) or yarn over is one of the most common instructions that you will find in your crochet patterns because it is a very crucial pattern and element for each stitch. Yarn over requires you to simply loop the yarn over your hook. This process is incredibly simple. Once you are done with your slip knot, take the longer length of your yarn behind the hook and bring it over the top of the hook, then move it right into the throat to hook the yarn from the bottom.



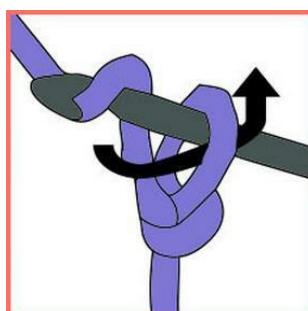
Chain Stitch

Chain stitch or (ch) is another crucial stitch in crocheting, and it makes its appearance in just about any crochet pattern. This type of stitch is usually found at the beginning of each crochet project because it allows you to build a foundation of chain stitches which you can then build upon. The chain

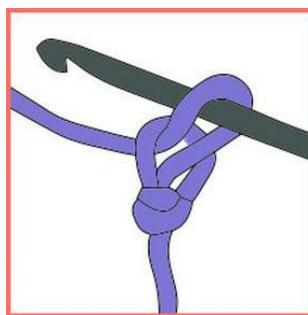
stitch is also known as a joining stitch which serves two purposes: beginning your project and structurally connecting the previous row with the new one.



Creating the chain stitch also begins after you are done doing the slip knot. Next, hold your yarn and hook following the image above. You need to hold the tail of the slip knot between your thumb and middle finger at the same time.

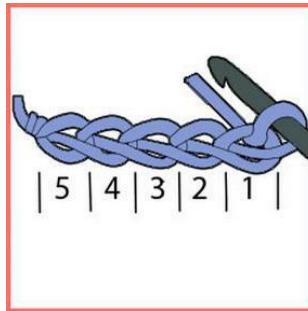


Next, yarn over and then rotates the hook so that the hook faces downwards toward the slip knot.



Once done, gently tug the hook while holding the wrapped yarn, through the loop on the slip knot, and rotate the hook back upwards as you come out to the other side. This forms a chain stitch. Take note not to make the loop too tight. Don't worry if this sounds confusing. You will get the hang of it after

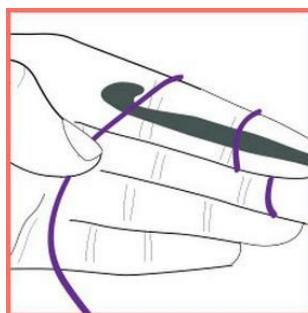
one or two tries.



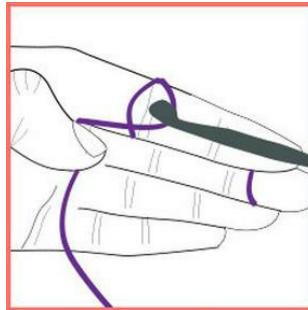
You can continue the chain stitch by repeating this process by pulling the yarn through the second loop. You need to ensure that your chain stitches are the same size so that an even tension can be procured. Once you are done completing the stitches recommended by your pattern, you have yourself a foundation chain.

How to Make a “Magic Ring” Also Known as the Adjustable Loop?

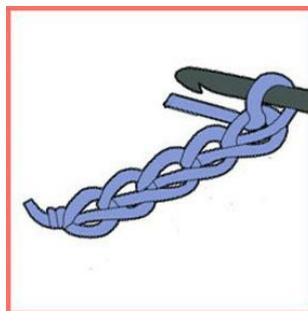
The stitches described above are mainly for straight patterns. It teaches you how to begin your stitching in rows. Moving forward, we will investigate designing in rounds. To begin a circular crochet pattern, learning how to make an adjustable loop is one of the easiest ways to get started. It also provides a neater finish compared to slip knots and chain stitches.



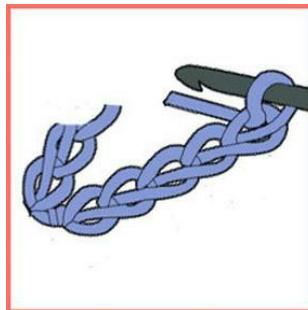
First, begin by wrapping the yarn twice around your index finger, and then carefully insert the crochet hook underneath the yarn, making sure to hook the second loop.



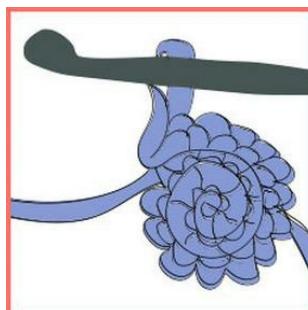
Next, pull the yarn back through the way it was inserted to create a loop.



Just like straight patterns, round patterns also require foundation chains, and this is dependent on the number of chains stitches your pattern calls for.



Create your chain stitches the way it is described above. Continue working around the loop according to the instructions on your pattern until you are done with your first round.



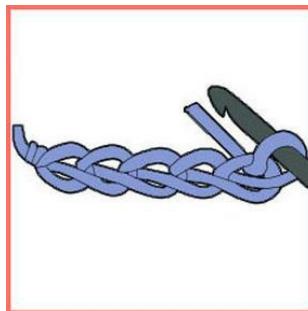
Gently tug at the yarn's tail to tighten the center ring so that the stitches close

elegantly together.

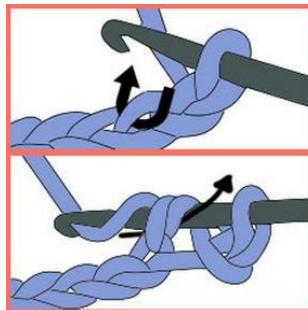
Single Crochet Stitch

The single crochet stitch is another regular technique and is usually indicated with the abbreviation (sc). This stitch is flat and tight, and it forms a compacted, finished piece, more so than other stitches. It is an extremely popular stitch used in amigurumi.

Another commonly used stitch found in crochet is the single crochet (sc) stitch. It's quite popular because of its tight and flat nature; it forms a denser finished piece compared to other stitches. Thus, it is especially popular in amigurumi!

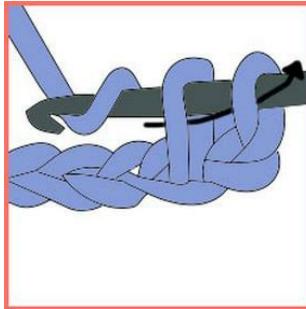


One of the first steps to do is to create a foundation chain using chain stitches. The number of stitches you need to make corresponds to the number of single crochet stitches you want your row to have, including one additional chain stitch.

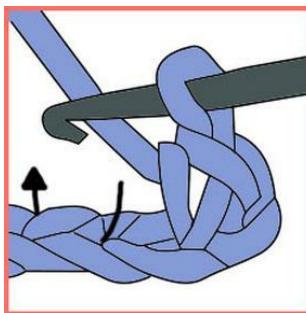


The first row of chain stitch you make is called your turning chain. This means you will be using it to form a new row. Because of this, you can skip this stitch and insert your hook into the second chain stitch from the hook,

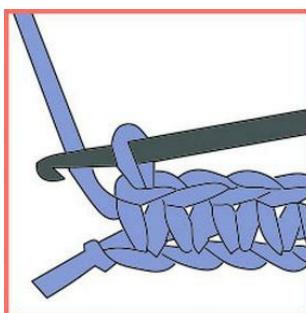
which would give you two loops of yarn around your crochet hook.



Next, yarn over and then rotate your hook's throat towards yourself and then pull it through the first loop, taking the wrapped yarn with you. You will end up with two loops around your hook.



Next, yarn over again and then pull it through both loops. By now, you should only have one loop around your hook. You have now completed a single crochet stitch!



To complete a whole row of single crochet, repeat three and four in the chain stitch until you have reached the end of your row.

Crochet for Left-Handed People

For the left-handed crafters out there, you are well aware of how confusing it can be to follow right-handed methods and adjust them to suit your needs. Crochet patterns and instructions are made for right-handers unless otherwise mentioned.

There are so few left-handed crafters, and being a minority, there are not many sources available to learn from. This is because only a small percentage of people are left-handed, and most of them are men. So, when it comes to doing crafts, particularly crafts for women, instructions for left-handers are not a priority.

Most left-handed women use right-handed instructional tools and prefer to use those. They end up learning how to crochet with their right hand. This may be alright for some, whereas others don't have as much coordination in their right hand to create a smooth rhythm. It is also possible to follow right-handed instructions and adjust them accordingly so that you can use your left hand to crochet. This can work, but it is confusing at times, and one needs to concentrate carefully.

So, if you are a lefty and you intend to take up crochet as a hobby, this guide should be very useful and hopefully make the process a lot easier for you.



Let's Get Started

The most important action is to get a firm and comfortable grip on your crochet hook, as this will allow you to proceed to the next step. So, once you have a grip on it with your left hand, you'll need to use your right hand for holding the yarn. This is simply the opposite of what right-handers do.

You choose, as right-handers do, to hold your crochet hook using your thumb and your index finger to keep it in place, or you can simply grip it as you would a knife. Both ways are easy to get used to, so just decide which one you prefer using and learn to crochet that way.

Of course, you can hold your yarn in several ways as you work your stitches; that is up to you. One of the most commonly used methods is to loop the yarn using your right index finger. Keep the loose end up, and then allow the thread attached to the yarn to lie on your palm in a cross manner. Once you have done this, you can use the free end of the yarn to create a slip knot to start the crochet process.

Once you have done that, using your right hand, and then hold the slip knot you have made between your fingers' middle and thumb. This is the most comfortable position for this. Your yarn will be between your index finger and your thumb, so you'll be able to control your tension nicely using your index finger. Controlling your tension will help you to create consistent, even stitches. It is best to master this from the beginning as it will make a huge difference to the quality of your work later on.

What Is the Difference Between Right and Left-Handed Crafters?

Although it is confusing to change hands when crocheting, the main differences between right-handed and left-handed techniques are as follows:

- You either grip your crochet hook in your right or left hand.
- You'll hold the yarn in your free hand.
- The direction you work in changes as a left-hander as you'll work your stitches from left to right, whereas a right-hander will do the opposite.
- To work the stitches in rounds, left-handers will work in a counter-clockwise direction to the right. Right-handers will do the opposite and work their stitches in a clockwise direction to the left.
- Crochet rounds worked by left-handers have a different appearance compared to those made by right-handers. Although some right-handed crocheters think that left-handers' rounds look odd, others actually prefer them.
- Rows worked by left-handers look the same as those done by right-handers, except that the yarn has been fastened off on the other end, so that is the only difference.
- Once you start, you'll have a piece of yarn that hangs down; this is your yarn tail. Always leave the tail hanging and never crochet over it. If a pattern has a right side and a wrong side of the work, your tail can be used to give you a hint. When the tail is hanging on the bottom right-hand corner, and then that makes it the right side to work on.
- Each time you do the yarning over; you will pick up the yarn in a clockwise direction. This is a good point to remember at all times.

Working From Graphs

As a left-handed crafter, you'll find most of the difficulties you'll have will lie in the interpretation of the patterns and graphs which you might use. Written patterns will be a challenge, whereas symbols are easier to use.

As an absolute beginner, you may not use graphs to start with. However, you are bound to come across them later on and use them. There are two different ones which you will use. The first is a graph used for color changes in your rows. These graphs make use of colored squares to represent the stitches. Hence, a red square indicates a red stitch in that row.

The second type of graph which you'll need to read is the graph used for the filet crochet technique. These are more complex and can be intimidating at first. The graph consists of blocks, which are filled in, and they represent three double crochet stitches which are worked into three separate stitches in the row above.

There are also open squares on the graph, and these are the mesh, consisting of double crochet and also chain stitches.

These graphs are marked with numbers representing the rows and stitches and are made for right-handed workers. Hence, as a left-hander, you'll just need to alter the graph accordingly. If you are not confident in doing so, you will still be able to use the graph as it is. However, the design will be reversed and won't be exactly the same. This is not such a problem when it comes to basic designs and pictures but bear in mind that if there are any words on the graphs, they will appear as mirror images in the final product.

Here are some left-hander tips for reading graphs:

- Left-handers should read the first row of the graph in the opposite direction, from left to right. Remember that the right-hander will read it from right to left.

- The stitches in filet graphs are normally different, but the graphs read the same. For example: On the first row that falls on your right side is normally read from the left side onto the right; this is the front side of the work done.

The first row of the right side gives you a basis of your work (front of work) will be read from left to right, which means the work is okay, while the wrong side (back of work) will be read from right to left.

Generally, the common patterns can be used by everyone, whether right or left-handed. Most of them will need to be changed slightly and also reversed. You'll learn how to do this by trial and error.

A basic adjustment you might need to make is as follows: Join the yarn in the top left-hand corner of your piece. You'll have to do the opposite, of course, and join the yarn you are in use of to the upper right hand and, to be specific, the corner. Most times, you will just need to reverse instructions such as these.

There is no need to avoid using a pattern because it is not made specifically for left-handers. The more you practice, the easier it becomes until eventually adjusting your patterns will become a habit.

CHAPTER 6:

Tips and Tricks

Common Mistakes

As a beginner, you must come across your fair share of frustrations as you get stuck into your crocheting. Mistakes could happen by not following instructions accurately or simply as a result of practice. Remember, there are certain methods you can adjust slightly to suit you, as long as they don't affect the appearance of your stitches and your pattern.

Learning to crochet can be a wonderful experience, so try not to get too despondent if you don't always manage to do everything properly at first. It is a very time-consuming craft and requires a lot of skill, which you will develop over time. Don't be too hard on yourself and just have fun.

Perhaps you may not be familiar with some of these, depending on how much crocheting you have done up to this point. Read through them and keep them in mind if you ever have any of these challenges in the future.

Inserting Your Hook Into the Wrong Chain When You Start

Don't count the first chain on the hook because it is just a loop; your first proper chain is the first chain from the hook, which is the one next to, and the one after that is the second loop on the hook.

When you use US stitches and your pattern contains UK pattern terms.

This can sometimes be really easy to miss and cause several complications. An easy way to check is to look out for single crochet instruction, as this

confirms that your pattern is a US pattern that uses US terminology.

Not Considering Blocking as an Important Step

First of all, blocking involves hand washing an item and then pinning it into place on a blocking mat. The reason for doing this is to straighten the item and flatten it if needed. It is possible to machine wash your item. Just use the hand setting. Consider that sometimes blocking isn't completely necessary.

Making Starting Loops Using Linked Chains and Not a Magic Loop

You could use methods of starting your crocheting in the round. The first is to work four or five chain stitches and join them in a circle by using a slipstitch. This is the simplest method.

However, a more effective method is to start loops using a magic circle. The center of the circle is much tighter than that of a regular circle linked by a chain stitch. The significant action to remember is uniformity. If you use motifs on any items, only use one method to create them as your work will be tidier. So, try them both and see which one you are more comfortable using and stick to that method.

Not Changing the Size of Your Hook as Needed

You may have done this and only realized it when your work didn't look quite right. This can happen when your starting chain is rather tight in comparison to the rest of your work. This is, however, a common mistake among beginners. It is essential that you have the right tension in your chain as it forms the foundation of your work.

One solution is to use a slightly larger hook than recommended in your pattern, as this will help you to have a more even tension throughout. It is not necessary to change the size of your hook if your tension is correct. Always be aware of specific crochet hook sizes on your patterns.

Your Work Seems to Be Shrinking

If you find your work is shrinking in places and the shape of your item doesn't look right, then you have probably made an error somewhere. The explanation for a mistake such as this is usually a result of making your first stitch in the incorrect position.

Remember these points:

- For single crochet, the first stitch is inserted into the first stitch of the row above.
- For your other basic stitches, it is the turning chain that is to be counted as the first stitch. Hence, this first stitch is inserted into what is the second one of the previous rows.

Not Being Able to Identify Your Stitches

It is common for beginners to be so involved in trying to follow the instructions in their patterns that they seldom check to see whether their stitches actually look the way they should. Never fear, this is quite normal and a mistake made by so many of us. There are heaps of diverse moving parts; in addition, it takes a long time to clasp your rhythm. When you begin crocheting, take a minute to tally your stitches in addition study what they guise like.

Avoiding New Techniques Because They Seem Too Difficult.

If something seems too difficult, look at it more carefully before avoiding it completely. If you can do the basic stitches, you'll be able to handle nearly all the crochet techniques without any problem. You may just need to practice a few times. The steps can sometimes seem a bit intimidating, but if you read through them, you'll see they are made up of basic instructions. So, don't avoid trying something new, it may be easier than you think, and you'll be able to take your crochet to a new level before you know it!

Not Learning Enough About Yarn

When you start buying yarns, learn as much as you can about them. You will, of course, have to use certain yarns depending on the patterns you are using. But also try and find out which ones are of good quality and don't always go for the cheapest.

You don't realize that your turning chain is the same height as the first stitch in the row.

You should be able to see that the starting chain of your row brings the height of your work up to that of the first stitch in that row. For example, single crochet in one chain and half double crochet in two chains. Have a look at this the next time you are crocheting.

Not Being Able to Read Patterns

Nowadays, one can tend to be a tad bit lazy when it comes to reading patterns. This is because online videos are much quicker and easier to follow for some of us. However, this is not ideal, as one should be able to read patterns. By reading through the pattern steps, you'll be able to create a picture in your mind of what the pattern should look like, and it will give you a better understanding of what you are doing.

Not Learning Corner-To-Corner (C2C) Crochet

The C2C method is an important and useful one to learn. You will most definitely use it many times, and it is great for making blankets and other garments. Don't avoid this one; try it and practice, you won't be sorry you did.

Not Learning How to Crochet in the Round

It is important to see how this works and then try it. This is vital to improving your crochet skills, so don't put off learning how to crochet in the round. It is a valuable technique to know how to use.

Not Learning How to Weave In Ends Properly

This is one of the most common mistakes made by beginners. It is so easy to just tie knots to the ends, but this is not the proper way of doing it, and it is not neat either. Learn to weave the ends into the surface by using the tapestry needle to finish your work off.

Worrying About Your Mistakes

Making mistakes is what helps you to learn and improve your work. Lots of practice and even more patience, as well as some creativity, is what makes a successful crocheter. You will have to undo your stitches from time to time or even start over again, but that is fine. You are not only learning how to follow instructions; you are also getting used to using your tools and materials, so be patient.

Trying Out Complex Patterns First

So often, ladies are in a hurry to create the most beautiful colorful garments without being able to master the stitches or change their yarn colors. This could result in a disaster which could also be incredibly discouraging. Just keep it simple until you are confident with basic crochet work.

Giving Up Too Soon

It is too easy to just pick up your crochet hook, try out a few stitches, and then give up if they don't work. You might feel as though you are getting nowhere, but that is not true. Give yourself plenty of time to learn the basics because once you can do that, then you can move forward and make so many items. If you cannot get your basic stitches right, then you will have problems making your item. Take it easy, and things will slowly start coming together.

Even the most skillful people struggled at first, so go for it and enjoy it!

Tips and Tricks

- Learn all you can about crochet supplies so you can purchase what suits you.
- **Remove all obstacles in your way.** This can be your long hair, jewelry, and cats (because they cannot resist a ball of yarn!) so you aren't interrupted while you work.
- Position the yarn in a place that unwinds easily.
- **Be prepared to switch hooks.** Novice crocheters often work too tight or too loose. If this is the case for you, change your hook. (Too tight = a larger hook needed, too loose = a smaller hook needed).
- Take the time to make gauge swatches, practicing all the stitches that you'll need for a pattern.
- **Don't be afraid to experiment to make a project your own.** If you make a mistake, you can always unravel the last few stitches.
- **Take a break.** If you get frustrated, taking a breather can help you refocus when you come back to work.
- **A break is also good for hand and finger stretching.** You should not injure yourself as you work, or you might never get to finish your project.
- **Keep up to date with everything crochet.** Plenty of online e-zines and forums are filled with all the latest patterns, tips, tricks, and information. You never know what you'll learn!
- Of course, the best way to master crochet is through practice. After all, practice makes perfect!

Basic Washing Instructions

Yarn and wool, which are the two most common fibers used in crochet and knitting, can be particularly tricky to wash and take care of because of how fragile they are. If it is done incorrectly, then all of your hard work on your project could be ruined by either miss-shaping, discoloration, or shrinking, which is why you should always follow any specific washing instructions that come with your wool.

For example, recycled yarn, organic natural wool, or yarn you make yourself generally has not undergone any treatments and needs to be dealt with correctly first to destroy any pests or bacteria that can linger. Those that haven't been chemically treated will not be suitable for sensitive skin without thoroughly washing first.

Hand Washing

Generally speaking, yarn or wool is hand washed to avoid damaging the yarn. For articles or projects that are quite long, such as socks or scarves, hand washing avoids them becoming too stretched, which can happen during the spin cycle in the machine.

Hand washing is incredibly simple once you know how and all you need is:

- Lukewarm water
- Wool wash or specific hand wash detergent (to avoid aggravating your hands)
- Bucket/Sink
- Towels

Method

1. Fill the bucket and add a ratio of 1 Tablespoon of detergent/wash to 1.5 Liters of water.

2. Mix it thoroughly until the detergent has diluted in the water.
3. Press your projects into the water so that the water seeps into all the fibers in the yarn or wool.
4. Move the project article around in the water and make sure it is completely immersed in the water and leave it for 15–20 minutes to soak.
5. Drain the water out and rinse the detergent out thoroughly (with wool wash, you don't have to rinse, follow the instructions that come with it), alternating pressing some of the water out and rinsing again. Make sure not to wring or stretch out the yarn/wool, or you could miss-shape it.

To Dry

1. Press out as much water as you can and place the article on a dry towel.
2. Roll up the towel and press down on it, which will remove even more water.
3. Hang and air dry until they are ready to use again.

Hand washing doesn't always do the trick in today's modern times because there are more spills, messes, and stains (especially projects relating to children or pets). That means you must use a machine to try and disinfect or get a cleaner finished project. Also, for regularly worn articles that may need more frequent washing, you will find using a machine is easier and more time-effective.

Top Care Machine Tips

Here are some basic tips that you should know about cleaning your yarn. That is a general guideline to start if you have nothing specific for your own skeins or wool stash.

- **No “vigorous” washing**—Ensure you keep the spin cycle low and that you do not wring out the project after you have washed it. This is because yarn and wool tend to lose their slight elasticity when it is wet, which means that when it is rung out or thrown in a high spin cycle, it can become stretched and ruin the fit of your project.
- **Wash below 40 degrees**—Avoid hot washes where possible because the heat can miss-shape the yarn as well as shrink your project. In addition to this, on very hot washes, it can even cause the wool or yarn to harden as if it were burnt, which can cause scratching on the skin if worn.
- **Non-bio only**—For those with sensitive skin, children and pets, it is best to use non-biological washing powder, which is softer on the skin and less likely to cause irritation or discomfort (especially on projects that have to be worn). This is because the biological components can sometimes linger in the fibers of the yarn and cause skin rashes or irritation for those who have frequent contact.
- **Re-shape when wet**—To avoid the wool or yarn from having kinks or losing its shape permanently, you should make sure you gently re-shape the project before hanging to drip dry. You can use gravity to help straighten your project. If you are hanging from a line (make sure not to damage the project with pegs/hooks)
- **Minimum amount of fabric softener**—This qualifies for other chemical washing components as well that can not only linger and

cause skin irritation in a similar way to the washing powder, but the chemicals in fabric softener can react with any dyed wool or yarns, which means there can be some discoloration or stripping your project of all of its color.

- **Steam iron**—Many believe you can't iron yarn or wool as it can singe the edges and make them hard and coarse. However, this is not the case; using an iron on a steam setting and spraying with water beforehand should protect your projects from the heat. Alternatively, if you don't have a steam setting, you can put the iron on a low heat and use a damp tea cloth or towel and iron through that to protect the fibers in the project.
- **No tumble drying**—The best way to avoid damaging your projects (particularly shrinking or burning) is to avoid tumble drying altogether, which can burn (and in some cases catch fire if left long enough) the project. If you decide to tumble dry anyway, be wary of the static electricity and sparking risk after the cycle and avoid spraying any aerosols near the room when unloading the washing.

Fundamentally the key point to remember is to avoid heat on the yarn where possible, which is the most likely cause of damage to projects.

CHAPTER 7:

Wearable Patterns

Scarf



Required materials:

- #5 Bulky weight yarn
- N size crochet hook
- Yarn needle

Gauge requirements:

- With N hook, a row of seven hdc = 3" in length

Special abbreviation used:

- **Third Loop:** These are visible right underneath the front loop. When a crochet hook is inserted into this instead of the top loop, the top loops are pushed out to the front of your work, making them more visible to create a ribbing effect.
- **Edging:** For this project, you will only be edging on one end as it is not necessary anywhere else. With your hook-on Row 16, ch one. At the

end of the short edge, finish off with one chi and an sl st into the same st as your previous sc. Secure ends and weave them in.

Crochet Bangle



Required materials:

- Crochet hook size 17 (12.75mm)
- Your preferred yarn

The Process:

- **Row 1:** Ch approximately 20 (depending on the size of hand and wrist)
- **Row 2:** Sc in every ch.
- **Row 3:** Sc through the back loop; this creates a running ridge.
- **Row 4:** Sc through the back loop, sk two st in last round to create an arch (for example, seven sc, one sk, seven sc, one sk).
- Cut off yarn; weave the ends around and through border stitches.
- Finish with a tight knot.

Crochet Hair Tie



Required materials:

- Simple hair tie (darker in color)
- Worsted (4) weight yarn in your favorite color
- Crochet hook size 3
- Scissors

The Process:

- Start with a slip knot, ch five to seven st; this makes the first end of your ribbon.
- Take your hair tie; place the crocheted chain on the front side. With your hook, pull the yarn through the hair tie and then up, forming a loop. You should now have two loops on the hook. Get the yarn from over the hair tie and pull through both loops. Once again, pull yarn through the tie and up, forming another loop. Pull yarn through both loops. Continue all the way around your hair tie.
- Once done, finish off with eight to 12 ch to form another ribbon end.
- With last st, cut yarn and pull through. Cut yarn ends just below the first crochet st.
- Tie a knot to finish.

Leg Warmers



What You Need?

- 6 mm crochet hook.
- 2–3 skeins.
- Darning needle.
- Scissors.

Instructions:

- Ch 35
- Join with a slip stitch to the 1st chain. Ensure that your chain is not twisted.
- **Row 1:** Chain 3 and double crochet into each chain, then join to the 3rd chain with a slip stitch.
- **Row 2–28:** Chain 3 and double crochet into each stitch. Join the third chain with a slip stitch.
- Bind off and weave in the ends.

CHAPTER 8:

Baby Crochet Projects

Here are some easy and amazing baby crochet projects that you could try!

Baby's First Crochet Hat

Perfect for newborns, this is so warm and comforting!



Yarn weight: 3 (Light/DK)

Crochet hook: 6mm/ J

Instructions:

- **Round 1:** Create a circle, and then make ch 3 and 11 dc in the said circle until 12 stitches.



- **Round 2:** Make 1 dc and ch 3 in the first stitch, then 2 dc in every stitch all the way around until you reach 24 stitches.



- **Round 3:** Next, make ch 3 and 2 dc in the next stitch. *Make 1 dc in the next stitch and 2 dc in the other* then redo from * to * all the way around until it reaches 3 ½ inches.
- **Round 4 to 10:** Ch 3 in 1 dc for every stitch in the round.



- **Round 11:** Make ch 1 and 1 sc for each stitch. *Then, make 1 sc for each of the next 8 stitches and 2 sc in the next* Repeat from * to * all the way around and make sl stitch to join.
- **Round 12 onwards:** Make 1 sc and ch 1 for every stitch in the round and then continue until you reach the diameter that would suit the baby's head.

Baby Booties

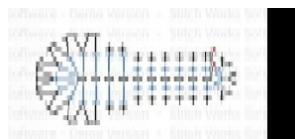
Soft, wrap-around booties that are sure to make babies feel good and ready to go!



Yarn weight: 4 (Medium-weight/Aran)

Crochet hook: 4mm or 6/G

Instructions:



Sole:

- Make 11 ch
- **Round 1:** Make sc in 2nd chain, then single chain 5 times, make 3 hdc, and 7 hdc in the last chain. Work the rest of the round from the back of the chain before. making hdc thrice, then single chain 5 times, and 4 in the last chain. Slip stitch to first st to make 28 stitches.
- **Round 2:** Sc in the same sc to make ch 1, then sc 7 times before making hdc, make 2 hdc thrice in a stitch, and then 2 hdc thrice again.



Shoe:

- **Round 3:** Work in back loops while making ch 1, then sc in the same stitch and do so all the way around, sl st to join and make 39 stitches.

- **Round 4–5:** Make ch 1, sc in same sc, sc all the way around, double chain 2tog, and dc3tog, double chain 2tog, sl stitch to single chain to make 33 stitches
- **Round 7–8:** single chain in same sc 5 times, sc2tog, dc, dc3tog, single chain 2 together before going all the way around, and weave ends in to make 23 stitches



Boot Cuff:

- **Round 1:** hdc 3rd chain from the hook, hdc 19 times and leave 3 spaces, and then work in opposite directions.
- **Round 2:** Make ch 2 and then turn, hdc for 28 times, ch 1 and then skip 1 hdc
- **Round 3:** Ch 2, turn, make hdc, hdc in ch 1 space, hdc to make 32 stitches.
- **Round 4:** Make scallops by making 5 dc from the 2nd hdc *skip 1 sc, skip next hdc* Redo * to * all the way around and then slip stitch to join.



Easy Baby Bib

Keep your baby's chin and clothes clean from food residue by making this easy, beautiful baby bib!



Yarn: Medium/approx. 50 yards

Crochet hook: 5.50 mm

Instructions:

- **Round 1:** Make chain 3, 8 hdc from the third hook, and then make a slip stitch at the beginning of the 3rd chain.



- **Round 2:** Make chain 2, and then turn, make 2 hdc in the next chain and continue all the way around, then sl st at the beginning of the 2nd round.
- **Round 3:** Make chain 2, and then turn, make 2 hdc in the next chain and continue all the way around, then sl st at the beginning of the 3rd round.
- **Round 4:** Ch 2, 2 hdc in the next sc, and then make another hdc, and sl stitch at the beginning of the next round.
- **Rounds 5–6:** Make ch 2 then turn around and sl st in the beginning of

the next stitch.



- **Round 7:** Make ch 2 then turn before making 2 hdc and then another hdc in the next 4 hdc's to make 49 hdc.
- **Round 8:** Make 4 ch, turn, make 2ch in the next hdc, then dc in the next hdc before making another 4 hdc's, make 2 ch in the next hdc, dc in the next 2 ch, and then make 2 hdc to make 56 stitches.



Straps:

Make strap by making 25—or as many chains—as you want and then sl st to join.

Dainty Baby Sweater

Keep your child safe from the lingering cold with this dainty, easy-to-make baby sweater that you're sure to love! You might even think of making some others give as gifts, too!



Yarn: 3-ply fingering/baby yarn

Crochet hook: 5.5 mm/GE

Instructions:

Back:

- **Round 1:** Make 49 ch, then dc in the 2nd loop from the hook, dc in each of the next 2 chains, and then turn to form 12 groups of 2 dcs.
- **Round 2:** Make ch 4, sc in the first ch space across, and then work to the last sc of the previous row, chain 3 and turn.
- **Round 3:** Make 2 dc in the first loop; make 1 ch, 3 dc in next ch, and then chain-loop across.
- **Round 4–23:** Repeat rounds 1 to 3 ten times.

Front:

- **Round 1:** Make ch 4, sc in the first ch-space, then chain 3, sc in the next chain thrice, chain 3 again, 4 chains, then loop thrice.
- **Round 2:** Make a double chain in the first 3 chain loops. Make chain 1, 3 dc in the next loop thrice and then turn.
- **Rounds 3–23:** Repeat the first 2 rounds until they measure the same as the ones on the back and fasten off.

Collar and facing:

- **Round 1:** Make 3 chains in the next space and repeat the process around the entire fabric. Make sure to work on both front and back ends.
- **Round 2:** In the first space, make 3 dc, then make 4 dc in the next ch space, then join and turn.
- **Round 3:** Make 3 chains in the next space, and repeat the process around the entire fabric. Make sure to work on both front and back ends.
- **Round 4:** In the next space, make 3 dc, then make 4 dc in the next ch space, then join and turn.
- **Round 5:** Make another 3 chains in the next space, and repeat the process around the entire fabric. Make sure to work on both front and back ends.
- **Round 6:** Repeat rounds 2 and 4 but makes 160 stitches.
- **Round 7-8:** Make chain 3 and then dc in the first ch space 48 times, ch 1 21 times3 dc in the next space, picot 27 times, dc 21 times, and then sl stitch to join.

Sleeves:

- **Round 1:** Chain 4 and then sc in the next space, ch 3 13 times, ch 3 again and turn.
- **Round 2:** Make 2 dc in the first chain, 3 dc-loop, and turn.
- **Rounds 3–15:** Repeat Rows 1 and 2
- **Round 16:** Make 2 dc in the first 3-ch loop, picot, and then fasten off.



Finishing:

Sew the sleeves on and then fasten off the seams. Sew a ribbon in the middle.

Baby Cocoon

Babies are like butterflies, too! Let them stay in their cocoon to keep them safe from harsh weather conditions and to take care of them better!



Yarn: 2 (Fine/23 to 26 inches)

Crochet hook: 6mm or J/10

Instructions:

- **Round 1:** Ch 3, then make 11 dc inside the ring and join with sl st dc stitches.
- **Round 2:** Make 3 chains, 1 double crochet in the first dc, and then 2 dc in the next 2 dcs all the way around.
- **Round 3:** Make 3 chains, make 1 dc in each chain, and then make 2 dc *1 dc in the next 2 dcs, 2 dc in next dc*. Repeat * to * all the way to the end and join with slip stitches.



- **Round 4:** Make 3 chains, make 1 dc in each chain, and then make 2 dc *1 dc in the next 2 dcs, 2 dc in next dc*. Repeat * to * all the way to the

end and join with slip stitches.

- **Round 5:** Make 1 ch, then single crochet in the same stitch and make 1 ch *Sc in the next dc in the first ch space* Repeat * to * all the way to the end.
- **Round 6:** Make 1 ch, and sc in the same stitch *Make ch 1, then skip single crochet in the next chain space* Repeat * to * until the end and finish off by burying or knotting ends.

CHAPTER 9:

Home Décor

What makes a house a home? Aside from the people you love, a house becomes a home when you fill it with warm memories, trinkets, and objects you make from the heart. In this section, let your personality and creativity flow in your home, by doing these lovely crochet projects designed especially for your home.

Maybelle Flower Coasters



Make these vintage crochet flower motifs into gorgeous coasters. Gradient, variegated, solid, or change colors for every row to make these coasters more personalized.

Note: For this pattern, I recommend you use a chunky cotton yarn along with an appropriately sized hook.

1st Round

1. Chain 10 and slip stitch into your 1st stitch to form a circle.
2. Chain 3 will count as your 1st DC for this round.
3. Make 23 more DCs.
4. Then slip stitch into your 1st stitch.

2nd Round

1. Chain 5, then SC into the 3rd stitch from the base of your chain.
2. Repeat step 1 until you finish this row.
3. Slip stitch into the 1st chain you made. You should have 8 half circles in total.

3rd Round

1. Slip stitch into the Chain Space.
2. In the same Chain Space, Chain 3 (this will be your 1st DC) make 1 more DC, Chain 2, 2 more DCs, and 1 Chain.

3. Repeat step 2 into all the Chain Spaces. Changing the 1st Chain 3 into 1 DC.
4. Slip stitch into the 1st stitch you made.

4th Round

1. Slip stitch your way into the 1st Chain Space of 2.
2. In the same Chain Space, Chain 3 and make 6 DCs, and 1 SC into the Chain of 1 from the previous round.
3. Make 7 DCs into the Chain Space of 2, and then 1 SC into the next Chain of 1 from the previous round.
4. Repeat step 4 until you've made fan stitches of 7 DCs into each Chain Space of 2.
5. Slip stitch into your 1st stitch, fasten off, and tuck in ends.

Simple Mug Cozy



This lovely, simple, and useful project keeps my fingers from being burnt from the hot mug. Make it for yourself, or give it to someone who is crazy for hot drinks!

Have fun making this!

Note: This works well with any kind of cotton yarn; just make sure you use the appropriate hook for the yarn's thickness.

Size may differ due to your mug's circumference.

Measure it by making enough chains to go around your mug. Keep in mind that the chain will shrink a little when the SCs are stitched in.

1st Row

1. Make 55 Chains.

2nd Row

1. Make 55 SCs on each of the stitches from the previous row.

3rd to 7th Row

1. Chain 10, then SC into the 1st stitch.
2. Keep making 55 SCs on each of the stitches from the previous row.

8th to 12th Row

1. Chain 10, then SC into the 1st stitch.

2. Keep making 55 SCs on each of the stitches from the previous row.

13th to 14th Row

1. Chain 10, then SC into the 1st stitch.
2. Keep making 55 SCs on each of the stitches from the previous row.

Border:

SC around your mug cozy to smoothen out the edges. Fasten off, cut excess yarn, and tuck in the ends.

Stitch in 3 buttons—and you're good to go!

T-Shirt Yarn Basket



Have you ever worked with T-Shirt yarn before? This will be a great pattern to start off with! Even though this pattern works with any kind of yarn, I suggest you use a T-Shirt yarn.

Note: This works well with any kind of yarn. Just make sure you use the appropriate hook according to the yarn's thickness. It is important to check tension and maintain even stitches.

1st Round

1. Start with making 3 Chains and slip stitching into the 1st stitch to make a ring.
2. Make 7 SCs into the ring.

2nd Round

1. SC 2 in each stitch. You should have 14 SCs when you finish this round.

3rd Round

1. Alternate making 1 SC in one stitch and then 2 SCs in one stitch. You should have 21 SCs when you finish this round

4th Round

1. Alternate making 2 SCs in the next two stitches, 2 SCs in one stitch. You should have 28 SCs when you finish this round.

5th Round

1. Alternate making 3 SCs in the next three stitches, 2 SCs in one stitch.
You should have 35 SCs when you finish this round.

6th Round

1. Alternate making 4 SCs in the next four stitches, 2 SCs in one stitch.
You should have 42 SCs when you finish this round.

7th Round

1. Alternate making 5 SCs in the next five stitches, 2 SCs in one stitch.
You should have 49 SCs when you finish this round.

8th Round

1. Make SCs in the back loops of each stitch. You should have 49 SCs when you finish this round.

9th to 16th Round

1. Make SCs around, maintaining 49 stitches for each round.

17th Round

1. Make 22 SCs, then Chain 9 to make a handle, skip 3 stitches, SC in the next 21 stitches.
2. Chain 9 and skip 3 stitches again to make the second handle.

18th Round

1. Continue making SCs around the rim.
2. When you reach the handles, SC over the stitches, making as many as needed to cover over the stitches from the previous round.
3. Slip stitch, fasten off, and tuck in the ends.

Starburst Hotpad



This is a rather interesting take on boring hotpads. Make a few to spice up the look of your kitchen.

Functional and aesthetically beautiful, this hotpad is quite easy-to-make.

Note: This works well with any kind of yarn; just make sure you use the appropriate hook according to the yarn's thickness.

Reminder: Do not make these hotpads out of acrylic yarns. Make sure it is made of cotton.

- You will need to make five of these motifs to achieve this hotpot.
- This will be much more eye-catching if each row is made using different colors.

You will need:

- 4-ply Cotton worsted weight yarn
- Crochet hook G or 5–6mm
- Tapestry needle

1st Row

1. Form a ring by Chaining 5, and slip stitching into your 1st stitch.
2. Chain 3 (this will serve as your first DC), make 3 DCs into the ring—totaling to 4 DCs. After that, Chain 6. Make 3 more sets.
3. Having 4 sets of 4 DCs and 6 Chains, slipstitch the last stitch of your Chain into your 1^{sr}DC.

2nd Row

1. Chain 3 into the previous row's Chain 6, serving again as your 1st DC, make 11 more DCs into the same ring, totaling 12 DCs.
2. Repeat step 1 until all 4 the Chain 6 from the previous row has a total of 12 DCs each.

3rd Row

1. You can go around this piece with an SC to make the shape more stable and to also add more color to it.

How to assemble

Lay side by side. Make sure the right side is facing you. Stitch them together in one corner, and so on, until you end up with a beautiful hotpad, same as the one in the picture. Make sure stitches are not visible and tuck in ends.

CHAPTER 10:

Blankets and Afghans

Basic Yo-Yo Pattern Afghan



A yo-yo afghan gives a unique circular pattern. It's fun and very different, so it will leave you with a product to be proud of!

The pattern is worked in rounds.

Hook: I-9.

Yarn: one skein of worsted weight yarn (approx. 62" of yarn needed).

Other materials: Tapestry needle.

Gauge swatch: 24 stitches = 4 inches.

Pattern instructions:

Create a [slip knot](#) and chain 4 stitches. Join these with a slip stitch in the first

chain to create a ring.





- **Round 1:** Chain 3 as the first double crochet, work 11 more double crochet stitches in the ring, and fasten off.

Flat braid joins method:

First yo-yo:

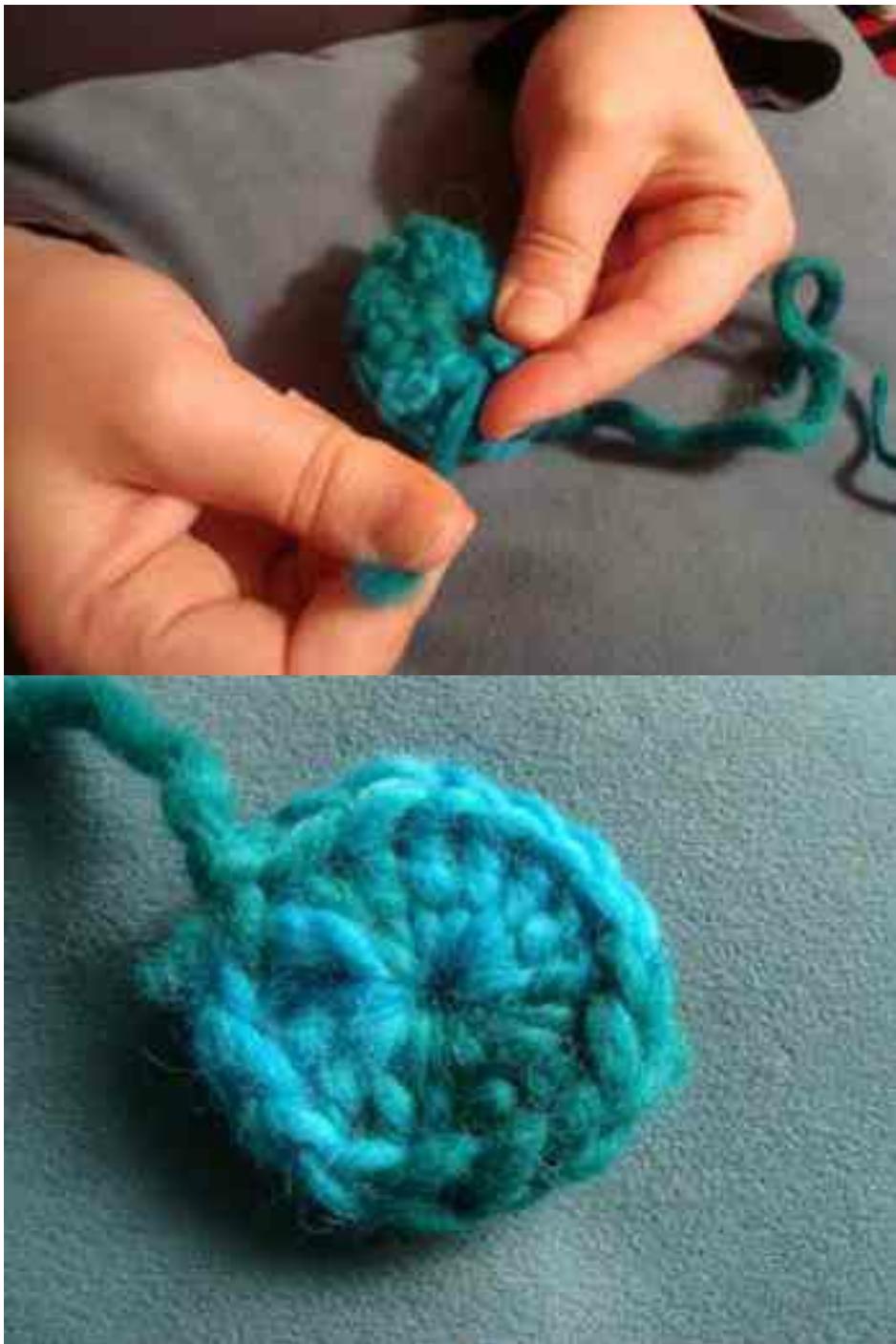
1. Join with single crochet in any double crochet.
2. Chain 3, then single crochet in the next double crochet 11 times.
3. Join with a slip stitch in the first single crochet.
4. Fasten off.





Second yo-yo:

1. Join with single crochet in one of the double crochet stitches.
2. Chain 3, then single crochet in the double crochet 9 times.
3. Chain 1.
4. Single crochet (inserting the hook from the bottom) in any chain- 3 space on the first yo-yo.
5. Chain 1, then single crochet in the next double crochet on the second yo-yo.
6. Chain 1, then single crochet in the next chain- 3 space on the first yo-yo.
7. Chain 1, then single crochet in the next double crochet on the second yo-yo.
8. Chain 3, then join with a slip stitch in the first single crochet on the second yo-yo.
9. Fasten off.



Third yo-yo+:

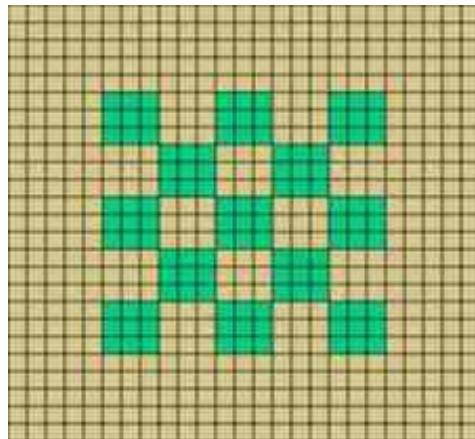
Join in loops 1 and 2 as done with the 2nd yo-yo.



Checkerboard Stitch Afghan



The checkerboard stitch afghan is suitable for those cool summer evenings. It may not produce the warmest product, but it looks amazing.



Blanket size: 46" by 63".

Hook: F-5.

Yarn: 3 skeins of worsted weight yarn.

Other materials: Tapestry needle.

Gauge size: 15 stitches = 4 inches.

Pattern instructions:

- **Step 1:** Make a slip knot and chain 101 stitches. Double crochet in the 3rd stitch from the hook, then again in the next stitch.



- **Step 2:** Chain 3, miss out the next 3 stitches.



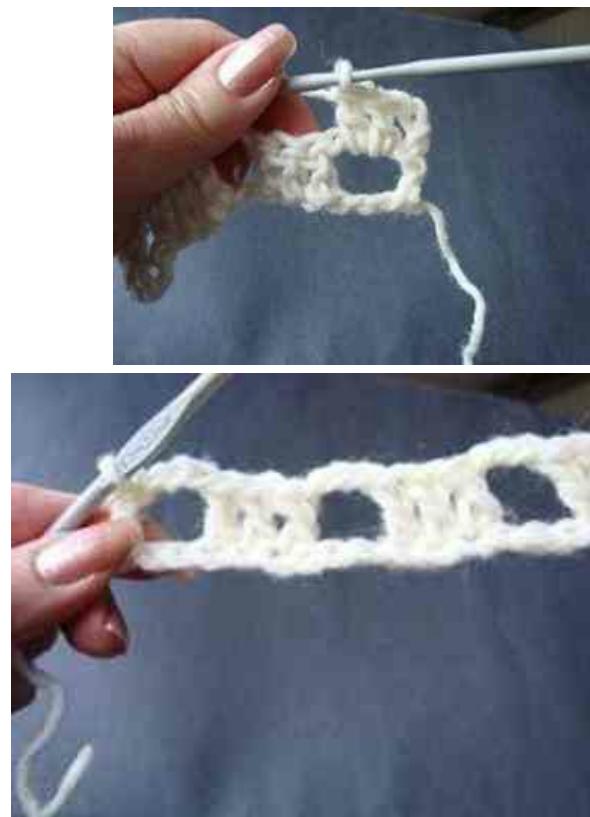
- **Step 3:** Double crochet in each of the next 3 stitches.



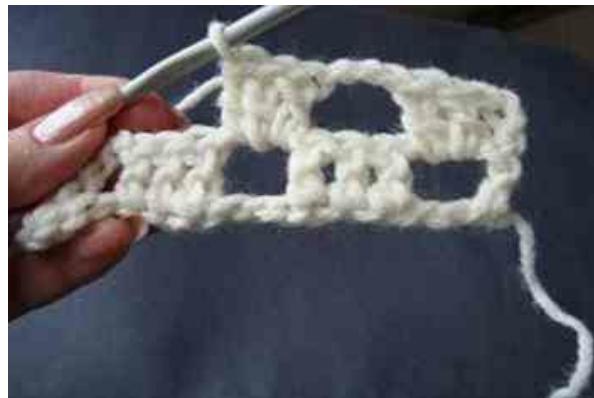
- **Step 4:** Repeat steps 2 and 3 across the row. Be sure to finish a double crochet in the last stitch.



- **Step 5:** Chain 3 and turn.



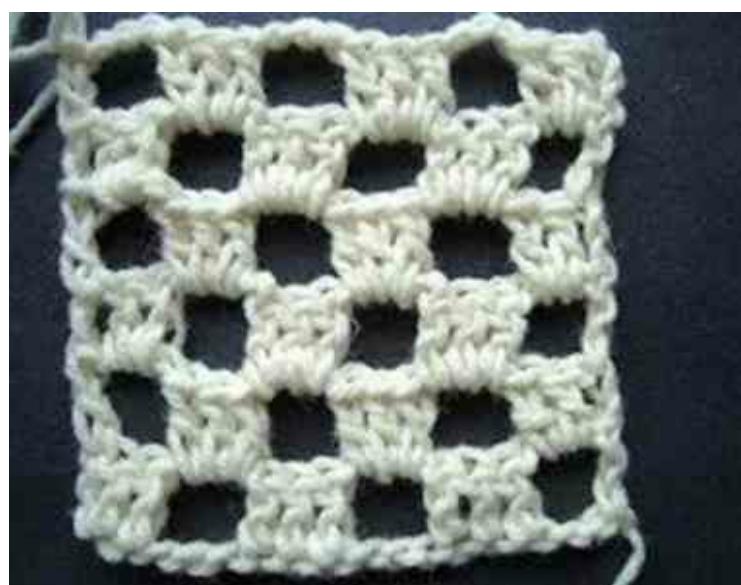
- **Step 6:** Create 2 double crochet stitches in the chain—3 space of the former row. The chain 3 obtains the place of the first double crochet.
- **Step 7:** Chain 3 stitches and 3 double crochet in the chain- 3 space of the earlier row.



- **Step 8:** Repeat step 6 across the row.



- **Step 9:** Repeat all the above steps until the afghan is your desired length.
- **Step 10:** Finish off.





Easy Ripple Afghan

The ripple design looks great in a variety of colors and will look really impressive for a gift or in your own home.

Blanket size: 40" by 60".

Hook: I-9.

Yarn: Worsted weight yarn in a variety of colors.

Other materials: Tapestry needle, scissors.

Gauge size: 4 stitches = 1 inch.

Pattern instructions:

Make a [slip knot](#) and chain 178 stitches.

- **Row 1:**

1. Double crochet in the 3rd chain from the hook.
2. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
3. Work 3 double crochet stitches in the next chain.
4. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
5. Work a 3 stitch decrease in the next 3 chains.
6. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
7. Work 3 double crochet stitches in the next chain.
8. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
9. Repeat above 4 across the row.
10. Finish by working a 2 stitch decrease in the last 2 chains.
11. Chain 2 and turn.





- **Row 2:**

1. Skip the first stitch.
2. Double crochet in the next 7 stitches.
3. Work 3 double crochet stitches in the next double crochet.
4. Double crochet in the next double crochet stitches.
5. Work a 3 stitch decrease in the next 3 chains.
6. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
7. Work 3 double crochet stitches in the next chain.
8. Double crochet in the next 6 chains.
9. Repeat above 4 across the row.
10. Finish by working a 2 stitch decrease in the last 2 chains.
11. Chain 2 and turn.



Repeat row 2 until the afghan is the desired length, changing colors as you like, and then fasten off.

Granny Crochet Blanket



This is a long-term project. It's easy but requires a lot of patience and commitment. If you think you're ready to make this gorgeous blanket, then let's get going!

Note: This works well with any kind of yarn; just make sure you use the appropriate hook according to the yarn's thickness. It is important to check tension and maintain even stitches.

Here are some things you need to know before starting this project:

- This blanket measures 40in x 69in or 100cm x 175cm.
- Each Granny Square should measure 3.5in x 3.5in or 9 x 9cm.
- You need to make 135 Granny Squares for this project.
- You need to stitch or crochet together the motifs in 15 rows of 9.

Sample steps on how to connect the squares:

1st Round

1. Connect joining yarn with a slip stitch in any Corner Chain Space with Chain 3, 2 DCs, Chain 3, and 3 DCs. In the same corner Chain Space, Chain 1.
2. Make 3 DCs, and Chain 1 three times, and then make 1 DC in the next corner Chain Space, DC 2 together in the same corner Chain Space and corner Chain Space on next square, and 1 DC in the same corner Chain Space, then Chain 1.
3. Repeat step 2 for each square until you reach the other corner of the blanket.

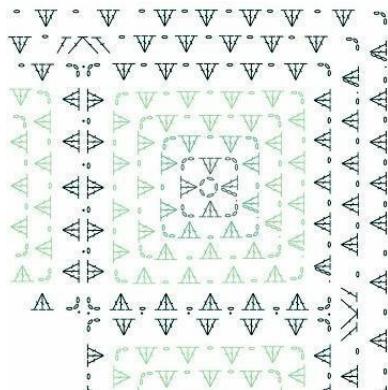
4. Make 3 DCs, Chain 3, and 3 DCs in the blanket corner Chain Space, Chain 1.
5. Repeat from step 2 to step 4 for each side of the blanket, join with slip stitch in first DC, then fasten off.

2nd Round

1. Connect joining yarn with a slip stitch in any Corner Chain Space, Chain 3, 2 DCs, Chain 3, and 3 DCs in the same corner Chain Space, Chain 1.
2. Make 3 DCs and Chain 1 until you reach the next blanket corner Chain Space; make 3 DCs, Chain 3, 3 DCs in blanket corner Chain Space, Chain 1.
3. Repeat step 2 for each side of the blanket, join with slips stitch in first DC, and then fasten off.

3rd to 4th Round

1. Repeat 2nd Round.



CHAPTER 11:

The Art of Crocheting: The Social Part

Crocheting has had a great impact on our society. The skill keeps on being passed on from one generation to another. This has helped a lot in impacting people's lives socially and even traditionally. Below are some social and traditional impacts brought about by crocheting.

For charity: Most often, we find ourselves with different types of crotchets, which we mostly make during our free time. One can craft some items and give them out to charities. It will always feel great when one benefits from an item crocheted with a lot of love. It will act as a way of showing your generosity and sense of care for others. One will feel good when someone appreciates something that was made purposely to suit their need.

Aesthetic value: Crocheting can display the beauty of a tradition. Before the invention of big companies that dealt with the manufacturing of clothes, people used to wear crocheted clothes. Some people make crochets to beautify the environment. We, therefore, make items we are sure will make their environment calm. This will enable us to feel relaxed whenever we are around.

Boost self-esteem: We all feel good when complimented for doing something so well. Compliments motivate us to produce better crochets which are better than the previous ones. When we sell the crafts we made or give them as a gift, it boosts our self-esteem. You feel great about your accomplishments. Self-esteem can also be built through learning new skills. One can feel productive, which creates beauty through self-expression.

Reduces stress and anxiety: We all get stressed up at some point in our life. We may become anxious as a result of the strenuous activities we may have engaged in our daily activities. We need to give ourselves a break. Getting a yarn and crochet would be of great help in relaxing our mind. It is through the repetition of the stitches as you count the rows that your mind gets some kind of relaxation. All the anxiety thoughts are set free since your focus is on creatively making the crochets.

Eases and relieves depression: Our emotions keep changing depending on the occasion. For instance, in the grieving period, it seems impossible to overcome your grief. Most times, we feel like the world has come to an end. Crocheting can be a comforter during the grieving period. Crafting such as crocheting is said to be helpful in the stimulation of dopamine, which enables you to feel happier and emotionally stable.

Keeps you busy: Imagine you are left at home alone. No other work for you, you can choose to do some crocheting. You will be relaxing at the same time, keeping yourself busy. You don't have to create wonderful products out of it. The whole idea is to keep your mind engaged through a useful course which may help you earn some income or even contribute to charity. In a scenario where you are following up on a program on the television, your hands will be busy crafting while your eyes are glued to the television. The best thing about crocheting is that one can engage every member of the family. They will be able to contribute to various ideas about what you are making and suggestions on colors and even designs.

Brings communities together: There are many ways to bring people together. One of them is having yarn crafting introduced to a community. They can have a meet-up in public to do crocheting. The community can organize a fiber fair together with related events. This will be of great help since people from different places will be able to meet and share ideas. They

will be able to learn from one another, hence more creative designs. The citizens can even come together and build yarn stores which will benefit the community from the sales made in the store. All the participants can also buy the yarn at a reduced price which will enable them to make more crocheted items for sale. They, in return, become more productive, which brings economic empowerment amongst them.

Conclusion

This guide has given you the basics of crochet. Now it's time to get started. Follow the instructions above, use this guide as a reference, and before you know it, you'll be crocheting like a pro!

Crochet is a fun craft easy to learn; you can make so many things such as scarves, hats, blankets, clothing, and more.

Crocheting is a great way to make stylish and cozy accessories. Here are some tips and tricks to help you get started.

Crochet is an easy, relaxing hobby. If you are interested in learning how to crochet, this book was designed for you. We explained the basics of crochet and gave you step-by-step directions to do your first project. Crochet for beginners can be a little intimidating, but it's not as hard as you might think.

If you have ever wanted to learn how to crochet, you surely found a great tutorial in this book. We learned how to make several different types of stitches, and to do your own project. Remember first to select the type of stitch you want to learn. Crochet is made up of three basic stitches: chain, single crochet, and double crochet. Crochet is a great hobby, and it can be used to make all kinds of things. You can use it to make scarves, blankets, and clothing.

Crochet is easy to learn; you can expand your knowledge with online tutorials. Crochet is a great hobby if you're looking to relax and unwind after a stressful day. It can be very meditative and allows you to work on something of your own creation.

Crocheting is a fun and relaxing hobby that will help you de-stress from your day job. It may also help you develop fine motor skills, which can be helpful

for those who work on computers all day. Crochet for beginners is a great skill to acquire. It's a fast and easy way to create beautiful pieces of clothing, accessories, home décor, and more. Although crocheting is not hard, you have to know some important tips and tricks before getting started.

There is nothing to stop you from learning how to crochet and getting your own yarn and hook! You can make beautiful crocheted items. It really is not that difficult. Once you get the hang of it, you can create many different products. You will be so proud of yourself and all the wonderful items you can make. So, go ahead, give it a try. You will be so glad that you did.

It is very important you take your time while crocheting. Your work will look better and be more professional if you take your time. I use a lot of photos to help me plan out how to work a section before I start it or after I finish it. I also use pictures to make sure that I have everything the right way the first time.

Crocheting is a good hobby and is very rewarding. Your friends and family will love their gift or memento from you. I love to show off my work. Unfortunately, some people do not appreciate what I make or think it is too hard to do. Just remember that every person is different and has different learning styles and preferences on which they want to learn something new. Never be disheartened if someone does not like something that you made. Just turn around and make yourself another.

I hope that you enjoy this guide, especially those that are new to crocheting. You can also try creating your own design from photos, magazines, and books. You will find lots of inspiration.

I hope that this has been helpful in getting you started. Keep at it. You will soon be a crochet expert. Good Luck!